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Halloween

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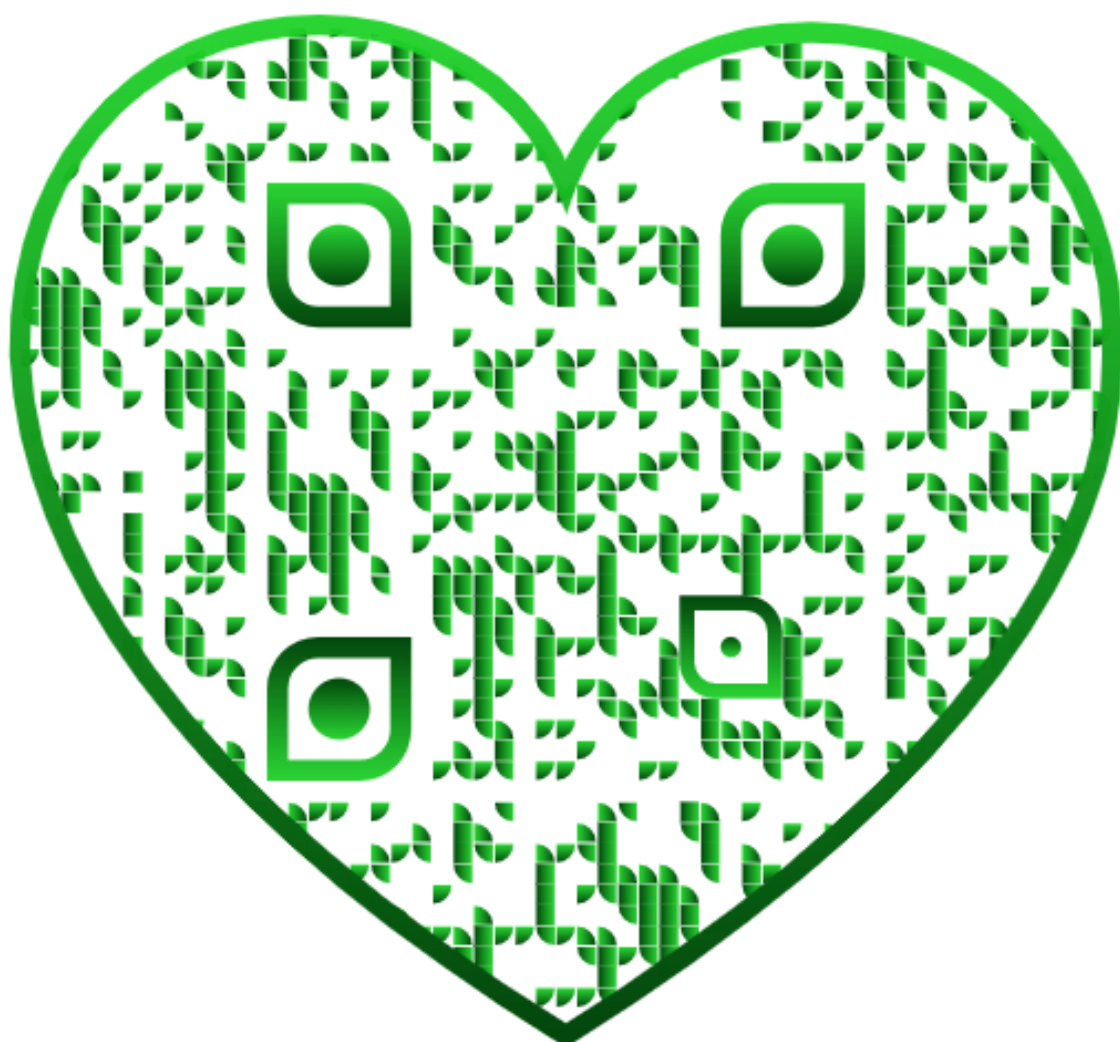
WHOOO'S
READY TO
CELEBRATE?

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WICKEDLY
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SWIRLING LEAVES

Spinning Maple Leaf blocks tumble across a throw in fall-inspired hues. Precut Friendly: Fat Quarters. Designer: Melissa Corry.
Finished Quilt: 90-1/2" Square.



MONSTER MASH



PUMPKIN PICKING



FRONT RUNNER: FALL



SOFT & SPOOKY



FEELIN' FOXY



HALLOWEEN HOOPLA

Table of Concoctions



38

4 FRIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
Three talented creators will inspire you to decorate, create, or bake your way through the season.

10 BRIGHT & BOO-TIFUL
Gather dollar store materials to craft these simple, colorful home decor projects and party favors.

20 FUN FOR FALL
Subtly spooky is the name of the game in this Michigan home.

28 STARRY NIGHT & WITCHES DELIGHT
Carve pumpkins into dazzling designs fit for Halloween night hocus-pocus.

38 HOUSE OF CURIOSI-TEAS
Beetlejuice! Beetlejuice! Beetlejuice! A Victorian home transforms for fantastically themed tea parties.

48 UP, UP, AND AWAY!
It's a bird! It's a plane! It's your child wearing a sky-high disguise on Halloween night! Construct one of these easy costumes.

58 WICKED VINTAGE TREASURES
A collector shares her favorite finds and the storied history behind them.

66 FORTUNE-TOLD TREATS
We see ooey-goey cupcakes and swirly drinks in your future. Make these recipes for your next party.

78 ALL WITCHES & WARLOCKS WELCOME
Step inside a creative family's historic home decorated as a witchy inn.

88 KNOCK KNOCK. WHO'S THERE?
Overhaul your front door and porch with one of these playful ideas.



66



48



20



88

DEPARTMENTS

3 FROM THE EDITOR'S CAULDRON

96 FINAL FRIGHT

ON THE COVER

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Halloween

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Nicole Dean

NICOLE DEAN
SENIOR EDITOR, HOLIDAYS

From the Editor's Cauldron

A wicked welcome! The frightful season is upon us once again. As warm days turn crisp and the trees reveal their brilliant colors, thoughts turn to the autumn season. Let us help you get in the mood for celebrating all things Halloween.

This is one of my favorite issues ever. It's packed with creativity, color, and some of the coolest home tours yet. Everyone's idea of Halloween is a little different. Whether you're an "all in" or "just enough" decorator, we have something to inspire you.

If you want more, more, more, check out our feature on The Vogel Victorian ("House of Curiosi-teas," *page 38*), where Diana and Dan Vogel host seasonal themed tea parties in their amazing California home, complete with activities, ghost stories, and treats. Many guests come in full costume to take part in their special events.

Are you in a time crunch but still wanting to invoke some magic? Buy store-bought cupcakes or a box mix, then jazz them up with a few simple additions like the ones in "Fortune-Told Treats" (*page 66*). These cookie fingers, licorice worms, and gummy eyeballs will equally impress and gross out your guests.

Before trick-or-treaters visit, take a look at "Knock Knock. Who's There?" (*page 88*). We show you four ways to make your front door stand out among all the others in your neighborhood. Kids will be clamoring to ring your doorbell.

And if you don't want to spend a ton of time or money but do want to get your creepy craft on, see "Bright & Boo-tiful" (*page 10*), where colorful and easy projects like garlands, faux pumpkins, and wreaths come together with simple materials that will enliven your home. So sit back with something pumpkin-y and enjoy! We hope you are inspired by our new ideas in costumes, carvings, and celebrating. Whether it moves you to dive in or just dabble, we wish you your best Halloween yet!

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Frights, Camera, Action!

Step inside the minds of these three creatives, whose floral artwork, handmade costumes, and color-drenched decor bring the Halloween season to life.

WRITER EMILY CARREON



Vicki & Brooke Rawlins

INSTAGRAM: @SISTERGOLDENSHOP

Q Your art is so intricate. How do you construct these pieces?

A I forage items outside, then arrange them on a flat surface using tweezers and scissors—no glue—to create a scene. Once I've photographed the image, I return the pieces back to the outdoors.

Q How do you collaborate as a mother-daughter duo?

A I have so many ideas going on in my head. Brooke helps me sort through them and keeps me grounded. When a piece is finished, all of the digital artwork goes to her. She is the marketing queen and the genius behind our Instagram and *sistergolden.com*. We are both involved in our physical shop in Door County, Wisconsin, along with our amazing small team.

Q Clearly you love Halloween. What are your favorite traditions?

A We live in a vacation town, so our whole family gets together the night of. Customers and kids come into our shop dressed in costumes, and they trick-or-treat from store to store. Everyone looks forward to it.



“CREATING THESE MINIATURE SCENES BRINGS BACK THE KID IN ME.”

—ARTIST vicki rawlins

FLORAL FRIGHTS

Opposite: Vicki Rawlins arranges seasonal scenes using foraged leaves, pressed and fresh petals, and other tiny botanical finds—a process she says is pure magic. (You can purchase prints on their website.) Above left: Vicki's garden—just steps from her home—is often the starting point for her art. Above: One of her favorite Halloween creations, called 'Boo,' uses helicopter seeds as bats and a pine needle bundle as a broom. Far left: As a mother-daughter team, Vicki and Brooke bring both their creativity and business savvy to the shop. Left: Twigs make great trees, but Japanese lantern plants are the true stars in many of Vicki's fall prints. “They're a beautiful orange and resemble pumpkins,” she says.



Yvonne Lin

INSTAGRAM: @EATYOURMONSTERS

Q As a maker, what draws you to the Halloween season?

A I'm one of those people who collects skill sets, so Halloween is one of those times where you can make and build anything. I love putting faces on things, whether it's food or kids costumes. Halloween lends itself to that.

Q What are some of your favorite materials to work with?

A As a designer, that part of me loves fiddling with everyday things—cardboard is my favorite. I've "trained" my kids to ask the neighbors for boxes. I also love hot glue—it's become my best friend.

Q What treats or costumes are on your future "must make" list?

A I love the process. With food, I've always wanted to try out sugar work. For crafts and costumes, I want to make papier-mâché even weirder than it is now. I'm also fascinated with motors and putting them where they don't belong. There is so much more to come!



BEHIND THE LENS

Above left: This silly stack of pancakes uses banana strips to resemble tongues. *Above:* Yvonne used one of her signature craft elements—pom-poms—to make this polka-dot costume for her son, Lenny, inspired by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. An exhibit at the Bronx Botanical Garden matched the look perfectly. *Center:* Yvonne loves a challenge. "My kids will say, 'Hey, I need to be a 10-foot dragon tomorrow' and I'm like, 'OK. We can do this!'" *Far left:* To make storybook-inspired donuts, Yvonne covered the tops with fondant, then painted them using food coloring gel thinned with lemon extract. *Left:* Starting with a thick fleece onesie and winter hat, Yvonne hot-glued hundreds of large pom-poms and sewed a snap-on tail to create this colorful dinosaur costume. *Opposite:* Peppers and asparagus become goofy critters in this bowl of pasta with marzipan tongues, edible eyes, and red sprinkle fangs—attached with a dab of melted cheese.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF YVONNE LIN

“MY CREATIVE PROCESS IS TO TAKE
AN IDEA AND PUSH IT TO THE POINT
OF ABSOLUTELY LUDICROUS.”

—DESIGNER yvonne lin





Kiel James Patrick

INSTAGRAM: @KJP

Q You go all out for every holiday, but especially Halloween. Why is this day so special to you?

A Our son, Harry, was born two days before and we brought him home on Halloween in a little knit pumpkin hat. It wasn't about costumes that year but stepping into our new roles as mom and dad. We cozied up under blankets, watched movies, snacked, and held our baby. That's a memory I'll always cherish.

Q What's your holiday decorating style: traditional or modern?

A We're deeply rooted in the traditional—think pumpkins, candlelit lanterns, cornstalks on the porch. There's nothing better than that burst of orange, red, and gold.

Q How do you pick your family's costume theme each year?

A We draw on classic stories, movies we love, or something our son is really into. Some of our favorites include *Mary Poppins*, *Ghostbusters*, and chickens (Harry thought our chicks were his little friends that year).



“THIS ISN'T A SEASON OF PRESENTS OR PRESSURE—IT'S ABOUT REKINDLING THE MAGIC OF CHILDHOOD.”

—CONTENT CREATOR kiel james patrick

TRADITIONAL MAGIC

Opposite: Kiel, his wife, Sarah, their son, Harry, and two pups, Bennie and Maple, dress as *Little Red Riding Hood*. Left: Fall evenings are reserved for family dinner parties in the backyard. Below, far left: Golden retriever Bennie is a photo-shoot pro. Below left: Pumpkins take center stage at the Patrick household (peep the giant inflatable in their yard!). “Halloween in New England is pure magic,” Kiel says. “It's not about perfection—it's about joy, togetherness, and creating memories.” Below: Sarah likes decorating the porch the most. Mums, gourds, and pumpkins from their garden fill the steps.





HAUNTED DOLLHOUSE

Jump on the spooky dollhouse trend—but make it vibrant. We found this one at a thrift store, then surrounded it with brightly colored gravestones adorned with skulls, spiders, and seasonally appropriate motifs. Boost its appearance with some mini painted pumpkins, moss, and a pastel picket fence.



INSTRUCTIONS
BEGIN ON PAGE 18.



Bright & BOO-TIFUL

These simple DIY projects enliven your home with punchy color.

WRITER WENDY HELFENBAUM PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM ALBRIGHT PRODUCER KIM HUTCHISON



STRING-O'-LANTERNS

Drape this adorable garland across a fireplace mantel or over a doorway. Jazz up 12 to 15 miniature faux pumpkins from the dollar store by wrapping them with yarn. Add eyes and mouths from metallic foam, then use an embroidery needle to punch through and thread each pumpkin onto a long piece of sturdy string. Finish it off with a few fake spiders.

GLAM GOURDS

Faux pumpkins show off the delicate textures of paper doilies that have been cut into your favorite Halloween shapes. First, paint pumpkins and the doilies in different shades of bright paint or black. When dry, cut the doilies into spiders, ghosts, bats, or webs and attach with glue. For a colorful feathered effect, paint a bunch of faux leaves, punching holes in the centers to resemble faces.



WICKED WALL HANGING

This ghostly presence is pretty in shades of pink, peach, and coral. Tie varying lengths of yarn and ribbon to an embroidery hoop, adding a shiny bow and two pom-pom eyes. Hang the spooky accessory from a hook to welcome guests and goblins alike.

FOR A FULL, TEXTURED
EFFECT, CHOOSE YARN IN
DIFFERENT WEIGHTS AND
ADD LACY RIBBONS.







CANDY-PACKED CRITTERS

Bats and spiders offer a hidden surprise—there’s candy inside! Wrap treats in a large disk of parchment paper, folding it over to form a ball, then cover in a brightly colored crepe paper streamer. Bat wings, spider legs, and happy faces make these cute enough to hand out to trick-or-treaters or give as favors at a party.



SPIDEY SENSE

Glam up your front door with a twinkling, spine-tingling spider wreath. Wrap about 32 ball ornaments in different shades of yarn, gluing on spider legs and bat wings to make festive creatures. Weave yarn to create the webby center (we show you how in our printable pattern guide), then add bling with battery-operated fairy lights.

**OUT OF SIGHT! TUCK AND
TAPE THE FAIRY LIGHTS
BATTERY PACK ON THE
BACK OF THE WREATH.**

“*Think outside the box.*

**A BOLD COLOR PALETTE AND SIMPLE
EMBELLISHMENTS CAN TURN BASIC OR UPCYCLED
MATERIALS INTO HOLIDAY MAGIC.”**

—PRODUCER KIM HUTCHISON

HOVERING HONEYCOMB

Tissue paper bells and balls come alive quickly with glued-on bat wings and jack-o'-lantern accessories. Hang the lightweight orbs from a ceiling or wall hook, or simply place them on a table. Create stackable pumpkin sculptures using hot glue.





INSTRUCTIONS



HAUNTED DOLLHOUSE

PAGES 10-11

MATERIALS

- Thrifted or upcycled dollhouse
- Screwdriver (optional)
- Spray primer
- Painters tape (optional)
- Spray paint in various colors
- Wood plaque or riser
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Assorted metal or wood tags in various shapes
- Fine sandpaper
- Rag or paper towel
- Halloween embellishments: plastic spiders, foam spiderwebs, skulls, flat wood letters (we found ours at a crafts store)
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Craft sticks: $2\frac{3}{8}\times 1$ " and $2\frac{1}{2}\times\frac{37}{100}$ " (we found ours at a crafts store)
- Fairy garden or dollhouse fence
- Assorted faux mini pumpkins
- Faux moss

INSTRUCTIONS

Dollhouse: Wash the dollhouse with soap and water, if needed. Let dry completely. If possible, separate any parts of the dollhouse that will be painted different colors—you may need a screwdriver to disassemble—or use painters tape after priming to separate. In a well-ventilated area, apply spray primer to the dollhouse and its pieces. Let dry.

Spray-paint the house and roof in colors of your choice and let dry. You may need a few coats of paint for full coverage. Reassemble the house.

Paint a wood plaque or riser; let dry. Set the dollhouse on the plaque to display. Place battery-operated tea lights inside for a glowing effect.

Graveyard: To make the headstones, sand the metal tags, then wipe off dust to create a surface that paint will stick to. Embellish headstones with spiders, webs, skulls, and letters; secure with hot glue.

To create a stand for your headstone, hot-glue a $2\frac{1}{2}\times\frac{37}{100}$ -inch craft stick to the front and back of the headstone bottom. Then glue a $2\frac{3}{8}\times 1$ -inch craft stick underneath the headstone (this will allow it to stand up).

In a well-ventilated area, spray primer onto the fronts and backs of the headstones, fence, and mini pumpkins. Let dry. Spray-paint the items in desired colors and let dry. Repeat if needed.

Assemble the haunted house and graveyard by adding the fence and headstones; fill in gaps with faux moss.



STRING-O'-LANTERNS

PAGES 10-11

MATERIALS

- Assorted faux mini pumpkins
- Gold spray paint or acrylic craft paint
- Assorted yarns
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Printable Jack-o'-Lantern Face pattern (go to BHG.com/BrightBootiful)
- Metallic and glitter foam craft sheets or assorted cardstock
- String
- Embroidery needle
- Faux spiders (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the stem from each pumpkin (we were able to twist ours off) and paint gold. Let dry.

Secure the end of a long piece of yarn to the center bottom of a pumpkin. Wrap yarn around the pumpkin until it's completely covered. Secure the cut end of the yarn with hot glue. Repeat this process until you have enough pumpkins for your desired length of garland.

Reattach the gold stem to the top of each pumpkin with hot glue.

Print the Jack-o'-Lantern Face pattern, enlarging as needed. Trace and cut from metallic foam sheets or cardstock. Secure to pumpkins with hot glue.

Measure string to desired length of garland; thread the embroidery needle. Thread the pumpkins onto the string by punching through the side of each pumpkin and feeding out the other side.

Hang the garland and, if desired, embellish with faux spiders. (We placed ours onto the pumpkins but you could secure with hot glue.)

GLAM GOURDS

PAGE 12

MATERIALS

- Assorted paper doilies
- Faux leaves
- Assorted faux pumpkins
- Craft paint or spray paint in various colors
- Paintbrush
- Glitter paint (optional)
- Printable Ghost, Bat, Spider, Spider Web, and Hocus Pocus patterns (go to BHG.com/BrightBootiful)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Paper hole punch in various sizes

INSTRUCTIONS

On a prepared surface, paint paper doilies, faux leaves, and faux pumpkins with craft paint or spray paint. Let dry. (Apply as many coats as needed.) Apply glitter paint to some of the pumpkins, if desired, and let dry.

Doilies: Print and cut patterns, enlarging as needed. Trace the Ghost, Bat, Spider, and Hocus Pocus patterns onto painted doilies and cut out the shapes.

Following the Spider Web pattern, fold the doily as shown and cut out on the marked lines. Unfold the doily to reveal the web.

Use a glue stick to secure a doily shape onto a pumpkin, smoothing it out evenly with your fingers. Repeat to complete your desired design.

Leaves: Use a paper hole punch to add eyes and a mouth to each leaf. (We used different-size hole punches to create a variety of looks.)

Attach a leaf at the top of the pumpkin, securing with hot glue. Repeat while moving down the pumpkin, overlapping the leaves to create a grouping of ghosts.



WICKED WALL HANGING

PAGE 13

MATERIALS

- Assorted yarn and ribbons
- Scissors
- Embroidery hoop
- 2-inch ribbon
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Black pom-poms, or pom-pom maker and black yarn

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut several pieces of ribbon and yarn about two arms' length long. Turn the embroidery hoop to offset the metal clasp (a bow will cover this in the end). Starting at the top, secure the yarn and ribbon around the embroidery hoop using a lark's head, or cow hitch, knot (look up this knot technique online to see how to do it). Vary the yarn and ribbon as you go to create a layered look. Repeat this until the top three-quarters of the hoop ring is covered.

Cut a piece of ribbon and tie into a basic bow. Hot-glue the bow to the metal hoop closure.

Trim two store-bought black pom-poms to an oval shape to look like ghost eyes and hot-glue to the hanging yarn/ribbon. Or, follow the package instructions on a pom-pom maker to make two black pom-poms, trimming into an oval shape; secure with hot glue.

Cut a short piece of yarn and tie it at the top of the embroidery hoop to hang. Trim any yarn or ribbon ends as desired.



CANDY-PACKED CRITTERS

PAGES 14-15

MATERIALS

- 10- to 12-inch dinner plate
- Parchment paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Individually wrapped candy
- Assorted crepe paper streamers
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

- Printable Bat Wings and Jack-o'-Lantern Face patterns (go to BHG.com/BrightBootiful)
- Assorted cardstock
- Googly eyes

INSTRUCTIONS

Trace around a dinner plate onto parchment paper; cut out the circle. Fill the center of the paper with wrapped candy. Twist and fold the paper around the candy to form a ball.

Snugly wrap the parchment paper-wrapped treats with crepe paper strips, going forward and back and side to side as if it was a ball of yarn. Once evenly covered, trim the crepe paper and secure the end with hot glue. Set aside and repeat using different-color strips of crepe paper to make as many balls as needed.

Print the Bat Wings pattern, enlarging as needed. Trace the pattern onto cardstock and cut out. Fold where indicated and hot-glue onto opposite sides of a wrapped crepe paper ball.

For the spider legs, cut four $\frac{3}{8}$ x 12-inch cardstock strips. Criss-cross them at the back of a crepe paper ball and hot-glue in place. Fold the strips to form spider legs.

Trace and cut out the Jack-o'-Lantern Face pattern from cardstock. Hot-glue googly eyes and the face pieces to each ball, as desired.

SPIDEY SENSE

PAGE 16

MATERIALS

- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Assorted yarn in various colors and weights
- Acrylic ornaments (2- to 3½-inch diameter)
- Printable Bat Wings pattern and Spider Web template (go to BHG.com/BrightBootiful)
- Foam craft sheets in coordinating colors
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paper-wrapped floral stems
- 18-inch wire wreath form
- 4 to 5 black felt sheets
- Mini disco ball ornaments
- Fairy lights

INSTRUCTIONS

Hot-glue one end of yarn to an ornament, then wrap like a yarn ball until completely covered. Repeat, wrapping ornaments with assorted colors and textures of yarn. For an 18-inch wreath form, you'll need 32 ornaments.

Print the Bat Wings pattern, enlarging as needed. Trace and cut the pattern from foam sheets. Hot-glue to opposite sides of three to five yarn balls.

For each spider, wrap four paper floral stems with yarn, securing with hot glue at the ends. Join all four wires in the middle and twist to create a single bunch. Hot-glue the twisted center to the bottom of an ornament. Bend the wires into a leg shape. Repeat to make a few spiders.

To create the spider web, tie six strands of black yarn equidistant around the wreath form, crisscrossing in the center. Then follow the printable Spider Web template to make the web (tie yarn at the "start" dots, then wrap according to the arrows). Once finished, tie a knot for each strand and trim excess yarn.

Wrap the wreath form with strips of black felt cut into 2-inch strips. Glue yarn balls onto the felt-covered wreath form, overlapping to cover the form completely. Add mini disco ball ornaments, securing with hot glue.

Weave fairy lights throughout the finished wreath; tuck the battery pack at the back of the wreath. Hang to display.

HOVERING HONEYCOMB

PAGE 17

MATERIALS

- Assorted round honeycomb balls and bells
- Scissors
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Printable Bat Wings, Pumpkin Stem, and Jack-o'-Lantern Face patterns (go to BHG.com/BrightBootiful)
- Pencil
- Assorted cardstock

INSTRUCTIONS

With the honeycomb shapes closed, trim a bit off the top and bottom of the round shapes to create the bats and pumpkins (this will allow the shapes to sit flat). If needed, trim the bell shape slightly to create a ghost shape. Open the shapes and secure with hot glue.

To make stacked pumpkins, use multiple ball sizes from small to large. Form a stack and secure with hot glue.

Print Bat Wings, Pumpkin Stem, and Jack-o'-Lantern Face patterns, enlarging as needed. Trace onto cardstock and cut out. Fold, if indicated, and secure onto honeycomb shapes with hot glue.



FUN for FALL

Skeletons, witches, and the cutest ghosts you've ever seen haunt this cheeky-not-creepy Michigan home.

WRITER SARAH WOLF HALVERSON PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM ALBRIGHT
STYLIST LACEY HOWARD





LEAF PEEPING

Teeming with ghost figurines and a leafy garland, this shelving unit, *opposite*, went viral when homeowner Holly Blain first posted it on Instagram. To create the long and winding look, she connected two garland strands and secured the top with a tack. Extra tacks and 3M adhesive hooks provide support. “I wanted to guide your eye along the cabinet,” Holly says.

FLOWER POWER

Holly styled a lush garland and dried bouquets on a dresser, *this photo*, to accentuate the florals in the ghost artwork by Petunia Fitzgerald Creations, a favorite local artist. Blanche the skeleton wears a ghost purse (with a mini skeleton friend tucked inside). Black paper butterflies flutter across the space.



AUTUMN IS A FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR

in the Blain household for a host of reasons: cooler weather, changing leaves, 12-year-old daughter Natalie's birthday—and the chance to switch up their home's interiors. "I love the anticipation of transitioning our home into a new look and to get the juices flowing on how I want to present our fall decor to everyone," homeowner Holly Blain explains. For a long time, her Instagram (@rusticwildarrow) showcased her adoration of all things autumn, but these days she's incorporating Halloween in moderation—"fun but not spooky," as she puts it. "Nothing big or gory."

Certainly, a few spots include skeletons and witches as the frightful focus, but much of the Halloween hubbub is subtle, such as the black plastic rats browsing among a stack of pumpkins in the kitchen or ghosts hanging out on a basement cabinet. "When I decorate for fall," Holly says, "I try to make it fun."

Each scene keeps with a theme: spiders crawl around the guest bedroom, witches cackle next to the fireplace, and skeletons skulk near the pantry. Every spot tells a story. "People may not realize that when they look at something," Holly says, "but for me, telling a story helps me put things together and bring a room to life. Having a story in my head helps me walk through what I need to complete each space." The story-driven decor charms their guests—even Natalie's friends. "One of the girls says it's like a treasure hunt," Holly says.



IN THE GREEN

The greenhouse, *top*, oozes charm with old, chippy white windows salvaged from an estate sale. "Each one is a different size, which made construction not the easiest," Holly says.

SUBTLE SPOOK

Dried flowers, eucalyptus, and linens in muted autumn hues hang on a rack in the kitchen, *above*. Plastic rats from the dollar store "sniff" mini pumpkins on the counter and short stacks of pale green Cinderella pumpkins on a vintage metal shelf.

PANTRY PALS

Even when Holly decorates with conventionally creepy things, she makes them sweet. Case in point: After burnishing skeletons with a gold finish, she playfully arranged them over the pantry door, *right*. (The largest one is aptly named Goldie Haunt.)





A TRIO OF BROOMSTICKS—
A FORTUITOUS ESTATE SALE
FIND—PARKS AGAINST THE
WALL, GIVING THE ILLUSION
THAT A FEW WITCHES
STOPPED BY FOR DINNER.

FALL FEAST

Since the dining room is small, Holly confines the seasonal display to a centerpiece on the table and an array of artwork on the wall, *this photo*. The table features black metal houses, shiny pinecones and acorns, bony candlesticks, a vase of barren branches from the backyard, and a few crows for some extra trepidation. On the picture rail, Halloween prints march across the wall, while a cauldron of bats (yes, that's the official term!) swoops skyward.



“TELLING A STORY
HELPS ME PUT
THINGS TOGETHER
AND BRING A
ROOM TO LIFE.”

—HOMEOWNER HOLLY BLAIN

BEWITCHING WONDERS

Holly envisioned the armoire, *top left*, as a cabinet of curiosities where visitors open a door and sneak a peek at the scene inside. Concrete busts (estate sale scores) don witch hats and are crawling with plastic spiders. (The smaller hats were clipped off headbands.) A dress form wearing a tutu, a cute witch figurine, and a swarm of black butterflies usher in a bit of whimsical beauty.

LEND A HAND

On the fireplace, *bottom left*, Holly repurposed bony hands to act as hooks, suspending witch hats from the spindly fingers using invisible fishing line. Metal jack-o'-lanterns filled with dried flowers add texture, while a set of skeletal salad tongs finds new life crawling up a pillow-filled basket. The tall ceramic witch hat grounds the scene. “I love a good statement piece that’s big and simple,” Holly says.



RIDE OR DIE

Meet Betty Bones, the bike-riding star of the living room, *this photo*. Betty and the bike are both mainstays in this alcove, a once-tricky-turned-treat area to style. “It’s kind of an odd space,” Holly says, “but the bike fits like a glove and is so fun to decorate each season.” She filled the bike’s basket with a mix of bare branches from the yard, long stems of faux red leaves, and clip-on bats. The haunted house artwork (another Petunia Fitzgerald Creations) on the wall behind really sets the scene, which is rounded out by pillows emblazoned with ghosts and fall bounty.



EYE SEE YOU

A black cabinet in the primary bedroom, *this photo*, provides a wide surface for an otherworldly tableau. The haunted mansion artwork conjures up a spooky misty forest. Holly built on that idea, adding bare branches on one side of the chest and ruddy foliage on the other. Faux pumpkins, a book of spells, brass candlesticks, and glass cloches containing faux wood eyeballs found at an antiques store play into the ominous look.



STAY IF YOU DARE

Even the guest bedroom is dressed to induce the heebie-jeebies, *right*. Large fabric spiders with wire legs scamper across the pillow and mirror, while plastic versions creep across the lampshade. For an eerie faux glow, a “moon man,” as Holly calls it, overlooks a dark street scene along the picture rail. A concrete garden statue sporting a witch hat stands regally on a side chair. Holly situates this piece throughout the house. “She’s very fun—I can really put her anywhere,” she says.

NOT-SO-HAUNTED HOUSE

A pumpkin-lined path leads to a shed, which Holly stages as a sweet, magical cottage, *below*. To decorate the front porch, *below right*, she tacked black-and-gold moths to the siding and adhered white butterflies to a moss-covered wreath. For her daughter’s birthday party, Holly turned the small table draped with black cheesecloth into a “bug juice” drinks station for partygoers.

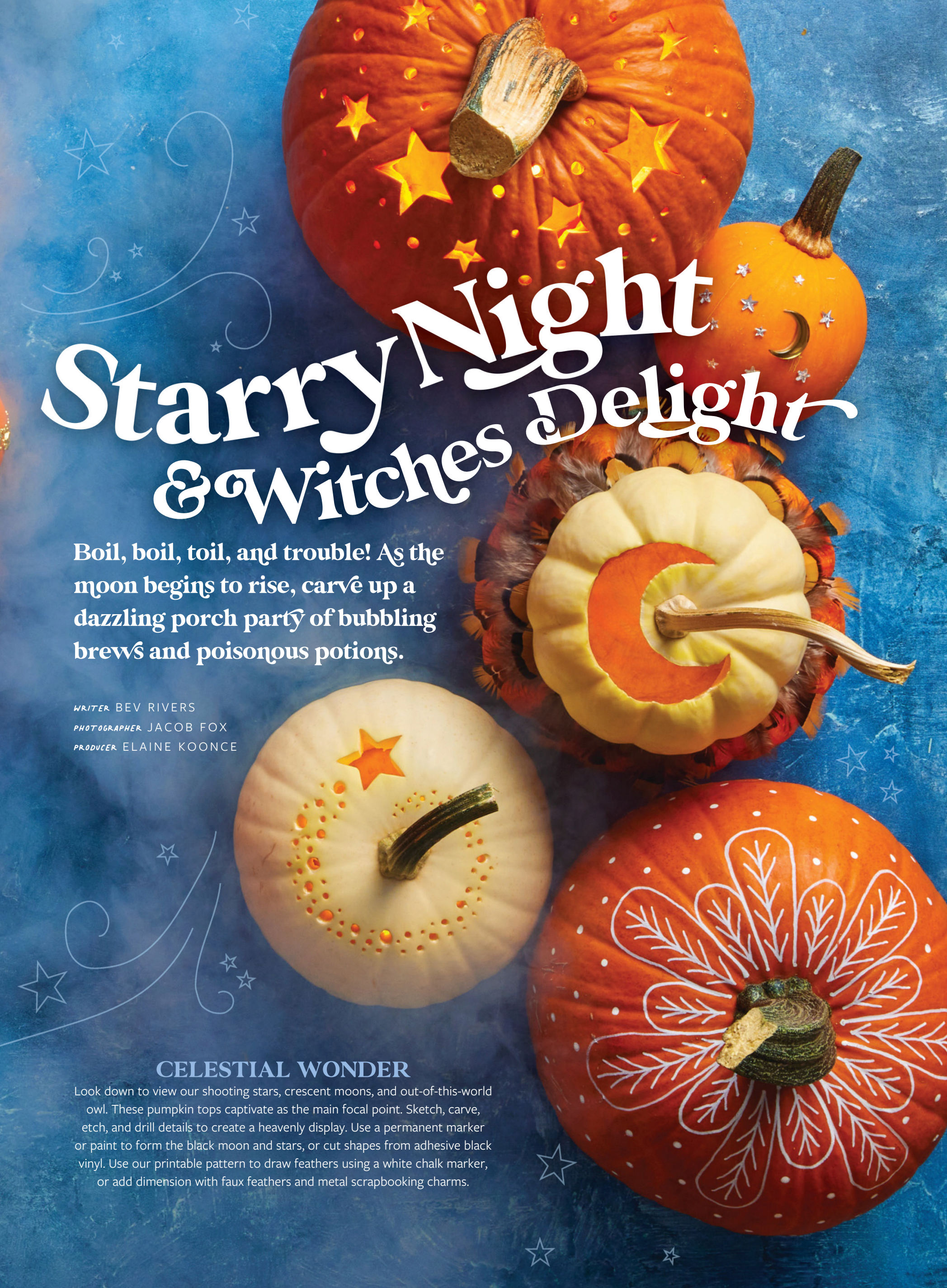


WHEN IT COMES TO
PUMPKINS, THE FUNKIER
THE BETTER. LOOK FOR
A VARIETY OF SHAPES,
SIZES, AND COLORS.





INSTRUCTIONS
BEGIN ON PAGE 36.



Starry Night & Witches Delight

Boil, boil, toil, and trouble! As the moon begins to rise, carve up a dazzling porch party of bubbling brews and poisonous potions.

WRITER BEV RIVERS

PHOTOGRAPHER JACOB FOX

PRODUCER ELAINE KOONCE

CELESTIAL WONDER

Look down to view our shooting stars, crescent moons, and out-of-this-world owl. These pumpkin tops captivate as the main focal point. Sketch, carve, etch, and drill details to create a heavenly display. Use a permanent marker or paint to form the black moon and stars, or cut shapes from adhesive black vinyl. Use our printable pattern to draw feathers using a white chalk marker, or add dimension with faux feathers and metal scrapbooking charms.

POISONOUS APPLE

This bright scarlet forbidden fruit is surely a recipe for temptation. Start by finding a small pumpkin—the smoother the better.

Spray-paint it glossy red, drill a hole in the top, and insert a white dowel. Add decorative stripes using washi tape.

CARVE LIKE AN EXPERT

Pumpkin pro Elaine Koonce shares how she designs and cuts clever gourd creations every Halloween season.

EXAMINE STEMS

Elaine chose the owl pumpkin (page 28) based on its perfect beak-shape stem, while the twisty handles on the potion pumpkins (pages 32–33) reminded her of swirling elixirs. If you buy your pumpkins at a farm, you can ask the picker to leave the stems long for character.

CARVE FIRST

If you plan to add painted details to a pumpkin, start by scraping and carving. Once you're satisfied with the cut, then paint. This way, dried paint won't pull off with your cutting tool.

SCRAPE GENTLY

When using a linoleum tool to add exterior details to a pumpkin, start with shallow gouges before digging in further. A deeper scrape will allow more light to poke through.

TRY FAUX

Benefit your future self by decorating some fake pumpkins to mix with your real ones. Elaine painted faux mini pumpkins to use as bubbles in the cauldron (page 34), which she can save and reuse next year.

NATURAL BEAUTY

A warty gourd is the winning feature on this witchy jack-o'-lantern. Pick one in a similar shade to your pumpkin, then cut a hole in the center of the pumpkin big enough to push the "nose" in place from the inside. After carving a mouth and eyes, use a linoleum tool to scrape away only the skin of the pumpkin for the eyelids and lashes. For hair, hot-glue raffia around the stem and trim in some bangs. Top her off with an iconic hat, then stick a battery-operated light inside to give her a fresh—and non-flammable—glow.



SPINE-TINGLING POTIONS

To cure all your Halloween willies, concoct an elixir of bright remedies. Find orange or white pumpkins with winding stems. Copy one of our patterns onto each pumpkin, then cut out the bottle tops and bottoms, leaving the label area intact. Fill in the details with a black marker, paint, or adhesive vinyl. Illuminate the potion by placing a color LED tea light or puck light inside; the shadows from the carved pumpkin flesh resemble a swirling motion.





FLAMING CAULDRON

This combo of pumpkins really turns up the heat. Use a linoleum tool to scrape away flame details on a large pumpkin (the cauldron) and several small pumpkins (the embers), carefully cutting only the surface skin and a small bit of pulp. Paint around the cauldron and ember flames with black or gray acrylic paint (it may take a few coats). Fashion a handle from black crafts wire to poke into the sides of the cauldron. Paint faux mini pumpkins a mix of iridescent colors to fill the cauldron. Set small battery-operated tea lights in the embers; place a bright puck light inside the cauldron under the bubbles to make them glow.





VROOM BROOM

Here's a ride that's all it's stacked up to be: cutting-edge design, flashy color, and clean inside and out. Wash, dry, and remove pulp from three pumpkins. To create flat surfaces for the pumpkins to stack evenly on, cut off the stems of the middle and lowest pumpkin; cut off the entire bottom of the middle and top pumpkin.

Copy our pattern outlines onto all three using a washable marker. With a linoleum cutting tool, scrape off skin within the outlines, being careful not to cut all the way through. Stack the pumpkins on top of each other, placing a bright light in the lowest pumpkin to glow through the broom design.



INSTRUCTIONS

ALWAYS WASH AND DRY FRESH PUMPKINS THOROUGHLY. WHEN CARVING, CUT THE OPENING ON WHAT WILL BE THE BOTTOM OF THE FINISHED DISPLAY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. SECURE THE CUT PIECE WITH TOOTHPICKS WHEN FINISHED.

CELESTIAL WONDER

PAGES 28-29

MATERIALS

- Large smooth, orange 'Cinderella' pumpkin for owl base
- Smaller white pumpkin with stem for owl face
- Variety of small pumpkins
- Printable Owl Face, Stars, Moons, and Feathers patterns (go to BHG.com/WitchyPumpkins)
- Washable marker
- Moon- and star-shape cookie cutters
- Crafts knife
- Drill and drill bits
- Linoleum tool
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Permanent black marker, acrylic black paint and paintbrush, or adhesive vinyl
- White chalk marker
- Adhesive gems: stars and moons
- Faux feathers

INSTRUCTIONS

Hollow out the owl base and owl face pumpkins and any small pumpkins where light will show through. Print the Owl Face, Stars, Moons, and Feathers patterns, enlarging as needed. Cut out from paper.

Owl Base: Copy moon and stars outlines onto pumpkin using a washable marker. Or use moon and star cookie cutters to imprint the outlines. Cut out shapes with a crafts knife or carving knife. Sketch swirls to connect stars. With a drill and small bits, make random holes along both sides of the sketch lines to resemble star clusters.

Owl Face: Adjust the pattern to fit the pumpkin. Make a stencil by cutting details with a crafts knife. Cut a small circle for the "nose" and slide it over the stem. Trace the details with a washable marker. Gently pop off the stem for easier carving. Drill eye holes. Scrape remaining details with a linoleum tool. Reattach nose with hot glue.

Black Moon and Stars: Adjust the pattern to fit pumpkin. Add the shapes with a black marker, black paint, or cut from adhesive vinyl.

Drawn Feathers: Adjust the pattern to fit pumpkin. Use a white chalk marker to sketch feathers, stars, and polka dots around the stem.

Gems and Charms: Look in the scrapbook section of a crafts store for adhesive-back star and moon gems. Adhere to pumpkins (using hot glue, if necessary).

Stars: Copy stars outlines onto an orange pumpkin using a washable marker, or use star-shape cookie cutters to imprint outlines. Cut out shapes with a crafts knife. Drill various-size holes for "distant" stars. For the shooting star, cut out one star on a white pumpkin. Drill holes swirling out from the star and around the stem.

Feather Stack: Hot-glue a ring of faux feathers around one stem. Carve a crescent moon in a smaller pumpkin, then stack the two.

NATURAL BEAUTY

PAGE 31

MATERIALS

- Pumpkin
- Printable Witch Face pattern (go to BHG.com/WitchyPumpkins)
- Crafts knife
- Warty gourd for nose
- Washable marker
- Linoleum tool
- Permanent black marker or paint for pupils
- Raffia for hair
- Scissors
- Witch hat

INSTRUCTIONS

Wash, dry, and hollow out the pumpkin. Print the Witch Face pattern, adjusting to desired size. With a crafts knife, cut out the interior of the shapes to make a stencil. Make a circle stencil just large enough for the gourd nose to snugly fit in. Trace the Witch Face stencil outlines and nose circle outline on the pumpkin using a washable marker. Cut out the eyes, mouth, and nose openings.

Using a linoleum tool, make shallow cuts to scrape away the skin to define the eyelids and corner lashes. Do not cut completely through the pumpkin. Add pupils with a black marker or paint.

Remove the gourd stem. Insert gourd through the round nose opening from the inside (we scraped away pulp in a few areas to accommodate larger warts).

For hair, hot-glue bundles of raffia around the stem to desired thickness, then trim to shape. Finish with a witch hat.

POISONOUS APPLE

PAGE 30

MATERIALS

- Small smooth, round pumpkin
- Drill and drill bit
- Spray paint: gloss red
- ½" wood dowel
- Acrylic paint: white
- Paintbrush
- Washi tape
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the stem of the pumpkin and drill a hole in the top to fit dowel. Spray-paint the pumpkin gloss red. (This may require multiple coats.) Let dry thoroughly.

Cut a dowel twice as long as the pumpkin is tall. Paint it white. Once dry, add stripes with washi tape (ours is black with white polka dots). Insert the dowel into drilled hole; secure the dowel with a dab of hot glue.



SPINE-TINGLING POTIONS

PAGES 32-33

MATERIALS

- Orange and white pumpkins
- Printable Potion patterns (go to BHG.com/WitchyPumpkins)
- Washable marker
- Crafts knife
- Permanent black marker, acrylic black paint and paintbrush, or adhesive vinyl
- Color tea lights or LED puck lights

INSTRUCTIONS

Wash, dry, and hollow out pumpkins. Print Potion patterns, adjusting to desired size; cut out. Trace outlines on pumpkins with a washable marker. Use a crafts knife to cut out bottoms and necks/tops of the bottles just to the inside of the marker lines.

Fill in potion bottle details with a black marker, paint with black acrylic and a paintbrush, or cut and apply patterns from adhesive vinyl.

Place a color tea light or LED puck light in each of the pumpkins to display.

VROOM BROOM

PAGE 35

MATERIALS

- 3 stackable pumpkins
- Printable Broom patterns (go to BHG.com/WitchyPumpkins)
- Crafts knife
- Washable marker
- Linoleum tool
- LED puck light

INSTRUCTIONS

Thoroughly wash, dry, and hollow out the pumpkins. Cut the bottoms off of each to create a flat surface. Remove stems on the bottom two pumpkins. Place the pumpkins on top of each other to ensure they stack well before carving the broom design; if needed, scrape away at the pulp until the stack is stable.

Print the Broom patterns, adjusting to desired size, and cut out. Copy the outlines onto the pumpkin using a washable marker. Or use the pattern as a guide only and, with a washable marker, free-hand sketch the broom handle, head, and bristles on the stacked pumpkins.

Separate the pumpkins while you work. Using a linoleum tool, scrape away the skin along the lines for the handle, head, and bristles; do not cut completely through the pumpkins.

To display, place a bright LED puck light in the bottom pumpkin. Stack the pumpkins on top of each other so the broom handle aligns.

FLAMING CAULDRON

PAGE 34

MATERIALS

- Large round pumpkin
- Small, smooth, round pumpkins for fire
- Mini real or foam pumpkins for bubbles
- Printable Flame patterns (go to BHG.com/WitchyPumpkins)
- Crafts knife
- Washable marker
- Linoleum tool
- Acrylic paint: black, white
- Paintbrush
- 12-gauge black crafts wire
- Pliers
- Spray paint: white
- Iridescent acrylic paint: white, blue, green, purple
- LED puck light and tea lights

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut away the top and hollow out the large pumpkin. Cut away the bottoms and hollow out the small round pumpkins.

Print Flame patterns, adjusting templates to desired sizes, and cut out.

Cauldron: Around the bottom of the large pumpkin, use a washable marker to trace the largest flame templates. Referring to the templates and image on page 34, use a linoleum tool to scrape off the design. Do not cut completely through.

Paint around the flames with black acrylic paint. Let dry thoroughly. Apply 2 or 3 coats for adequate coverage.

Bend crafts wire to form a handle. (Twist a shorter length of wire around the center, if desired, to resemble a real cauldron's handle.) Use pliers to bend the ends at a right angle. Insert into the cauldron.

Embers: Use templates to draw flames on the small pumpkins. Scrape off skin along the design lines. Cut some all the way through. Paint around flames with various shades of gray. (Mix black and white paint to create desired shades.)

Bubbles: Spray-paint clean small pumpkins (real, faux, or a mix) white; let dry. Coat with various shades of iridescent paint; let dry.

Place an LED puck light on the bottom of the cauldron pumpkin. Fill the cauldron with the bubble pumpkins, then stack the embers around the bottom of the cauldron, adding small tea lights inside some to display.

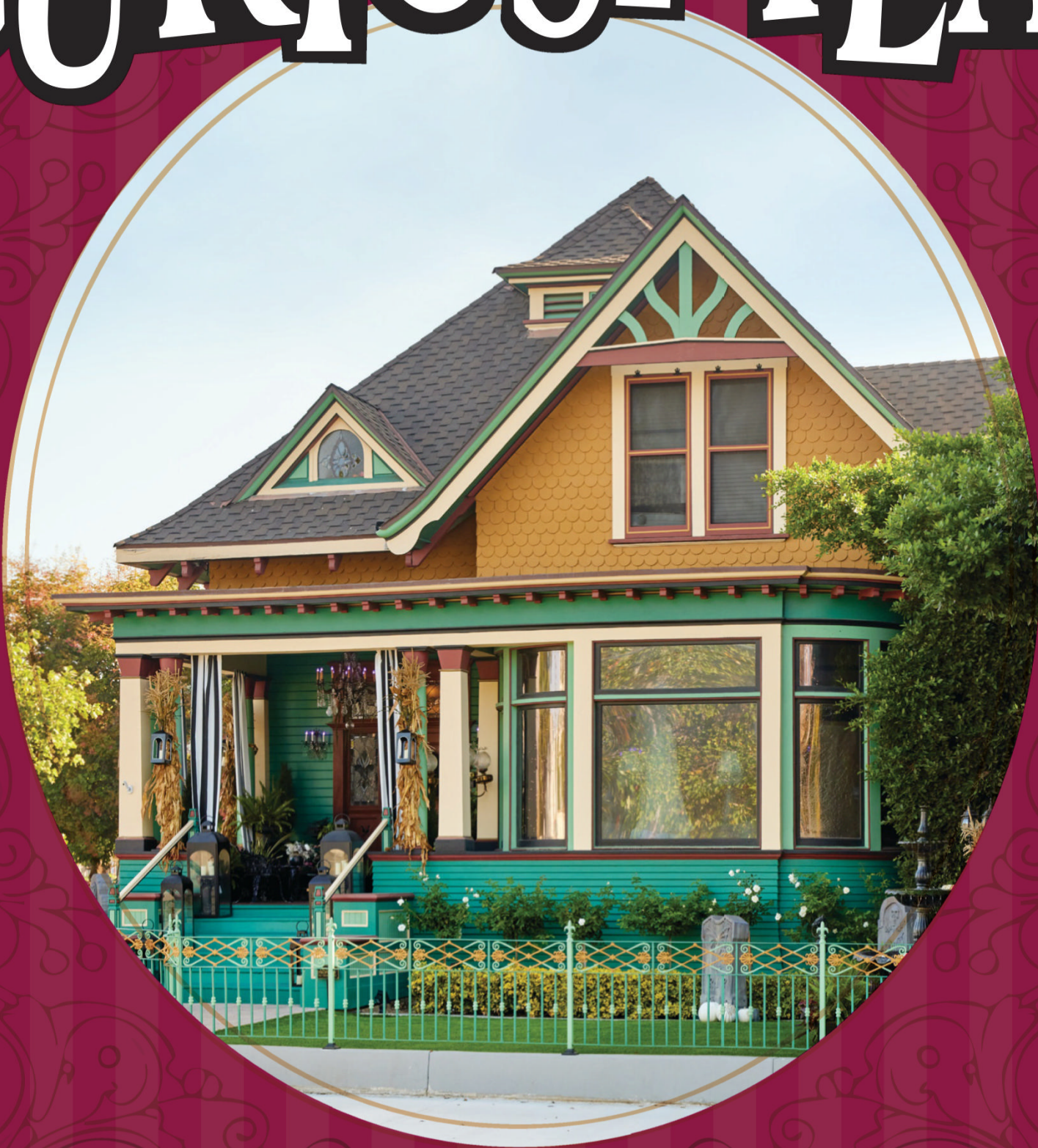


FAMILY PORTRAIT

Homeowners Diana and Dan Vogel welcome tea party guests with their cocker spaniels, Mila (left) and Marley (right). “The porch was inspired by our trip to New Orleans—ferns, black lanterns, and wrought-iron furniture,” Diana says. “I found the chandelier on Facebook Marketplace from a seller who wanted to unload it fast, so I got a great deal. I carried the gallery wall to the porch and added a TV to play introduction videos for guests.”



HOUSE OF CURIOSITEAS



It's showtime! Each Halloween, this 1898 Queen Anne Victorian gets a lesson in decorating to welcome guests for lavishly themed tea parties. Put on your best costume, grab a friend, and enter—if you dare.

WRITER KRISTIN GRANERO PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM ALBRIGHT



ENCHANTED STAIRCASE

"The French chandelier in the foyer was a Facebook Marketplace score," Diana says. The 20-plus portraits of family and friends were made regal by online sites Turn Me Royal and Crown & Paw. "Changing out the flowers on the banister is so much fun," Diana says of the greenery from local florist Petals & Prickly's.

WHEN Diana Vogel and her husband, Dan, moved into their 1898 Queen Anne Victorian—a designated historic landmark in Santa Ana, California—in 2023, they wasted no time renovating and decorating.

Within six months, inspired by a passion for interior design and Halloween, the couple was ready to host a dry run for what they dreamed would be a recurring, family-style Halloween tea party. Their guests could experience the house—now lovingly referred to as “The Vogel Victorian”—and have a little (dark) fun.

The dry run was a success, and with the help of some friends and influencers who spread word about the event, the tea parties began selling out. “We worked around the clock, with multiple jobs and no sleep from August 2023 through January 2024,” Diana says. “When the smoke finally cleared, we had served over one thousand people in four months. A new chapter was born.”

This year, Diana and Dan took another big leap: They traded in their full-time careers to dedicate more time to prepping and hosting tea parties, along with the occasional historic house tour or special event. They share updates and ticket information with their followers on Instagram (@vogelvictorian).

Tea party themes have included “Krampus Christmus,” “Bridgerton,” “Practical Magic,” and, most recently, “Beetlejuice,” with “Haunted House” on the docket for this coming season—each a nod to beloved movies but with the Vogels’ personal spin.

“The kitschy stuff is taken out and all of the spooky, gorgeous Victorian is what’s left,” Diana explains. “We have people who come to every theme, so we’re constantly doing updates to keep things fresh.”

The Vogels take about six months conceptualizing and decorating for Halloween, then do a complete overhaul ahead of Christmas, bringing their visions to life with items they’ve curated from antiques shops, flea markets, estate sales, home goods stores, and places like Facebook Marketplace and Etsy, adapting pieces as needed.

“The decorating and tea parties are a bonus to the fact that we can cherish this landmark while we’re here and preserve it for our grandkids,” Diana says. “We want to build a legacy.”



BUGGING OUT

A collection of insect-adorned busts draws attention in the entryway, above. “I found metal beetle fixtures at local home stores and spray-painted some of them gold as an homage to the theme, then used fishing wire to attach them to the busts,” Diana says.

ALL-ENCOMPASSING CREST

“We are spooky all year long, and the tea cup with stripes is our brand staple,” Diana says of the house emblem, *left*. “Add the flowers for the romantic touch and you have, in one image, all that represents The Vogel Victorian.”



PATTERN PLAY

The Vogels have several trees in different colors that rotate according to the holiday: green for Christmas, pink for Valentine's Day, and black for Halloween, above. "For each theme, we change out all the textiles—curtains, pillows, rugs—plus wall decor, flowers, and pictures. Everything!" Diana says. Much of this *Beetlejuice*-esque pillowscape was sourced from home goods stores. The gold frames are updated each season with new fixtures and prints. "We usually have time to transform our home, except between Halloween and Christmas, where we have less than a week," she says.

GOLDEN GLOW

"The ornate pumpkins were from an estate sale, so it's a mix of that and local home stores," Diana says of her luminous table decor, *left*. She and Dan apply their own finishing touches to make everything look and feel special.

“OUR THEMED TEA PARTIES ALLOW US TO SHOWCASE THE HOUSE IN VARIOUS WAYS. IT’S LIKE HAVING A DOLL TO PLAY DRESS-UP WITH. DECORATING IN THIS STYLE KEEPS THE HISTORY OF OUR HOME ALIVE—AND IS VERY THERAPEUTIC!”

—HOMEOWNER DIANA VOGEL



EPIC SPICE RACK

A walk-in functional pantry gets the *Beetlejuice* treatment with striped walls and a thoughtful selection of oddities, *left*. More than 35 organic herbs and spices line the black and gold shelves.

ISLAND TIME

The beautiful island in the center of the kitchen is amplified by grandiose beetle prints, *below*. “I had the floors installed the moment we moved in,” Diana says. The diamond pattern is indicative of late-1800s and early-1900s home decor. All of the chandeliers in the house were sourced from various places and refurbished by Diana.





ENTERTAINING STUDY

This dining area provides a dark academia aesthetic and serves as the family's ofrenda, or altar. It holds 100-year-old books, as well as a fireplace that still has its original mosaic tiles. The ten antique dining chairs were purchased from Facebook Marketplace and reupholstered. The green wall paint complements the tile on the fireplace and floral motif on the stained glass. "My mother loved to decorate her spaces, whether it was our small apartments or the first home she owned when I was 15 years old," Diana says of her early design inspirations. "I vividly remember floral wallpaper, pink carpet to match, fresh-cut flowers, and *Better Homes & Gardens* on the coffee table."





To learn more about
The Vogel Victorian
or purchase tickets, visit
thevogelvictorian.com.



2



3



4

1 SET TO IMPRESS Diana, along with party guests Anissa Ayala and Ashley Herrera, raise a glass at the *Beetlejuice*-adjacent tea party. “Instead of characters from the film, we added insect beetles as they were actually very popular during the late 1800s and early 1900s, often used on embroidered garments because of their dazzling shine,” Diana says. “We try to be unique to our themes. We believe that’s where the magic happens.” The tableware brims with black and white stripes and pops of green. **2 SEEING STRIPES** Diana’s niece Anissa dresses for the occasion. “I threw my first tea party ever for her when she was five years old,” says Diana. “It was a full-circle moment when she asked that I throw her a tea party for her 30th birthday party last year.” **3 CARICATURE ART** Brass animals—all found secondhand—adorned with glasses and other accessories give an equally playful and polished look. **4 DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN** Dan is typically the first person to greet guests when they arrive at the party. “His big grin and welcoming demeanor make all of our guests feel like family,” Diana says. The Vogels love working Dan’s Fijian and German heritage and Diana’s Latin heritage into some events. “During Christmas, we talk about the German folklore of Krampus, and on special occasions, he hosts a kava session in his speakeasy, which teaches our guests the history around this Melanesian/Polynesian ritual,” Diana says. **5 LADY IN RED** Ashley, a neighbor, sits at the head of the table. “She radiates what we think our guests feel when they sit in this space—transported to a different time in history, immersed in the moment, and in awe of the surroundings,” Diana says. The tea parties are served family-style for up to 16 guests, who are encouraged to dress on theme. The parties also include drinks at the Victorian bar in the carriage house, outdoor photo opportunities, a mini ghost hunt in the basement, and a lesson in making love potions. **6 SWEET SURPRISE** While Diana typically makes the tea, sandwiches, and desserts for her parties, she occasionally purchases treats locally, such as these ones from Black Magic Cakery and Cakes by Daniel, small Latin-owned businesses. **7 HAT TRICK** Diana, shown with 3-year-old cocker spaniel Marley, owns many Victorian costumes that she switches up for different themes. “This hat is from Other Realm Designs,” she says. “I have three from this designer and always feel so glamorous in them.”



5



6



7

POWERFUL SUPERHERO

Justice is sure to be served when your trick-or-treater transforms into a courageous character. Set the scene for a daring display by trimming an adult-size sweatshirt into a cape. Use the leftover shirt sleeves and paper cups to form arm cuffs. Add decorative impact with layers of contrasting felt in various shapes on the cape, neckline, cuffs, and headband.



INSTRUCTIONS
BEGIN ON PAGE 56.

UP, UP, AND AWAY!

Flutter, drift,
hover, or soar!
The sky's the
limit for these
high-flying DIY
costumes.

WRITER HEIDI PALKOVIC
PHOTOGRAPHER ALEXANDRA
GRABLEWSKI
PRODUCER AMANDA KINGLOFF



GLOWING FIREWORK

What's that lighting up the night sky? A neon fireworks display, of course! This super-simple costume transforms glow necklaces into colorful arcs that extend from a painted foam ball mounted on a dowel. The city skyline below is made of boxes painted and decorated with washi tape, then tied around your child's torso. Once everything is assembled, wait until nighttime or just before trick-or-treating to activate the glow necklaces to ensure the fireworks show will last throughout the fun.



ADJUST THE LENGTH OF
THE DOWEL BASED ON YOUR
CHILD'S HEIGHT TO ENSURE IT
IS COMFORTABLE TO CARRY.

fluttery butterfly



THIS SWEET
SWALLOWTAIL CAN
REALISTICALLY FLAP HER
WINGS, THANKS TO
A CLEVER RIBBON "HINGE"
AT THE CENTER.



Delight in this natural beauty as it flits around on Halloween. Use our template to trace and cut out two butterfly wings from foam-core board. Apply generous amounts of painted lines, swirls, and dots onto one cutout, then place the second cutout wing on top and press into the wet paint. Pull apart to reveal a perfect mirror image design. Once it's dry, use a black paint pen to outline the painted areas. Connect the wings with a length of ribbon and hot glue. Finish with antennae made from foam-core strips and large pom-poms, glued to a headband. Accentuate with bug-eye sunglasses and a butterfly net to "catch" candy.



WHEN MIXING COLORS, PICK
HUES THAT PLAY NICELY TOGETHER,
LIKE SUNNY YELLOWS WITH
FRESH GREENS. OTHERWISE, YOU MAY
END UP WITH A MUDDY COMBO.



WINDBLOWN KITE FLYER

A hidden wire creates the illusion that a colorful kite is caught in a big gust of wind. To make the kite, dye two large sheets of white paper using a mixture of shaving cream and food coloring. Trim the papers into a diamond shape, then sandwich a long length of heavy-duty wire between the two papers for the “tail.” (We added wire to our trick-or-treater’s tie too.) Twist the wire around a belt loop and secure to a shirt with a safety pin near the shoulder.



Beam up the fun with a hovering orb filled with intergalactic style. To make the UFO, stack three inflated beach inner tubes and wrap them with strips cut from a Mylar tablecloth. Decorate the sides of the ship with strips of tape, circle stickers, and remote control color puck lights. Have your child step through the tubes, sliding them to their waist, for a hands-free costume. When night falls, turn on the puck lights for maximum extraterrestrial effect!



OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD

3
E
D

radiant rainbow



BEFORE ADDING FRINGE
TO THE ARMS OF
THE JACKET, STUFF THE
SLEEVES WITH NEWSPAPER
OR A TOWEL TO GIVE
THE GARMENT SHAPE.



Get ready to find a big bucket of candy at the end of this rainbow! To create the colorful jacket, cut a rainbow fringe curtain backdrop into single color sections, then apply in rows to a denim jacket. (Our printable template shows you how.) Ribbon conceals and finishes the edges. To form the radiating rays of sunshine headpiece, fasten yellow zip ties to a plastic headband. (We studded ours with rhinestones for some sparkle!)





This puffy cumulus cloud won't rain on your dress-up parade. Pile clumps of polyester fiberfill onto a flat-brimmed hat to make a lofty head covering. For the skirt, tie strips of light blue tulle onto an elastic band for a wispy, airy effect. Add more fiberfill to the ends of the skirt, then complete the ensemble with rain boots and a simple sweater or sweatshirt.

charming cloud



POWERFUL SUPERHERO

PAGES 48-49

MATERIALS

- Adult crewneck sweatshirt
- Printable Sweatshirt Cuts diagram and Starburst pattern (go to BHG.com/UpUpAndAwayCostumes)
- Fabric scissors
- Felt in various contrasting colors
- Fabric glue
- Hook-and-loop tape
- Two paper drinking cups
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Rhinestones
- Wide fabric headband

INSTRUCTIONS

Lay the sweatshirt on your work surface front side up. Refer to the Sweatshirt Cuts diagram to make the required cuts.

Print the Starburst pattern; enlarge as needed. Cut out and trace onto different colors of felt. (We used three colors.) Layer and attach the starbursts to the cape using fabric glue; let dry. Cut small confetti-like pieces from felt. Glue the pieces around the starburst, spacing them farther apart as you work outward.

For a snugger fit around your child's neck, cut the neckband near the shoulder and attach hook-and-loop tape to the strap and cape.

To make the armbands, cut the cuffs off the sweatshirt sleeves, approximately 6 inches from the wrist. Cut the bottom off two paper cups (so that your child's hand fits through). Push a cup into each sweatshirt cuff, then fold over and hot-glue excess material to the inside of each cup. Cut shapes from felt to adorn the cuffs; attach with fabric glue. Glue on rhinestones, as desired. Let dry.

For the headband, cut triangles from felt; layer and glue to the fabric. Let dry.

GLOWING FIREWORK

PAGE 50

MATERIALS

- 36"-long ½" dowel
- Acrylic paint: black, red, yellow
- Foam paintbrush
- 5"-diameter foam ball
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Glow necklaces and connectors in a single color
- ¾" tinsel pom-poms in a single color
- Upcycled boxes in a variety of sizes (cereal, cracker, toothpaste, etc.)
- Scissors
- Washi tapes: black, gray, turquoise
- Cardboard
- 1½"-wide ribbon: black

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint the dowel black and foam ball red (or a color of your choice that matches the glow necklaces); let dry. Push the dowel at least halfway into the foam ball. Hot-glue into place.

Attach glow necklaces end to end in groups of four, three, and two. Make 10 sets of each. Hot-glue a pom-pom on the end of each necklace grouping.

To make the cityscape, cut off the ends of boxes so they are about 2 inches deep. Paint each box yellow; let dry. Apply washi tape over the yellow paint in stripes or grid patterns to resemble skyscraper windows. Arrange the boxes with the bottoms aligned, then hot-glue to a cardboard rectangle backing.

Cut two pieces of ribbon long enough to tie around your child's torso. Glue the ribbons to the cardboard backing. Situate the cityscape on your child's stomach and tie at their back.

When ready to wear, "break" the glow necklaces to release the glowing liquid. Push the necklace ends into the foam ball—start with the longest strands and fill in with shorter ones. Hot-glue in place.

FLUTTERY BUTTERFLY

PAGE 51

MATERIALS

- Printable Wings pattern (go to BHG.com/UpUpAndAwayCostumes)
- Two 20x28" pieces of foam-core board
- Crafts knife
- Acrylic paint in desired colors
- Black paint pen
- 1"- to 2"-wide ribbon

- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Headband
- Black pom-poms

INSTRUCTIONS

Print Wings pattern; enlarge as needed. Trace one wing onto each foam-core board. Cut out with a crafts knife.

Squeeze a generous amount of paint in dots, dashes, and swirl lines onto one wing. Press the second wing directly on top of the painted wing; apply gentle pressure across the surface. Pull the pieces apart; lay flat to dry. Turn the wings over and repeat the painting process on the back side; let dry.

Using a black paint pen, outline the colored shapes on each wing and draw a border around the outer edge. Repeat on opposite sides. Let dry.

Place the wings side by side with a thin space between them. Hot-glue a length of ribbon over the seam, connecting the wings. Repeat on opposite side.

Cut two pieces of ribbon long enough to reach around your child's shoulders like a backpack. Neatly fold the ends of each ribbon and hot-glue to the wings a few inches above and below the seam on either wing.

To make antennae, cut ½-inch strips of foam-core board and glue the ends to a plastic headband. Glue a black pom-pom on the tip of each foam-core strip.

WINDBLOWN KITE FLYER

PAGE 52

MATERIALS

- Butcher paper or drop cloth
- Shaving cream
- Tray or sheet pan slightly larger than 11x17" paper
- Cardboard
- Food coloring or liquid watercolor
- Toothpick or wooden skewer
- 11x17" paper
- Wire snips
- Heavy-duty wire
- Printable Kite diagram (go to BHG.com/UpUpAndAwayCostumes)
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Double-sided tape
- Ribbons
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Safety pin

INSTRUCTIONS

Cover your work surface with butcher paper or a drop cloth. Spread shaving

cream on a tray or sheet pan. Use a piece of cardboard with a straight edge to smooth the surface. Add drops of food coloring or liquid watercolor to the shaving cream, leaving large areas uncovered. Using a toothpick or wooden skewer, make swirls in the shaving cream.

Lay a piece of paper on top of the shaving cream surface; press down gently. Carefully lift the paper and lay face up on the work surface. Using the cardboard as a squeegee, slide it down the paper to remove the shaving cream and pigment. Scrape the shaving cream back onto the original tray. Set the marbled paper aside to dry.

To repeat with another piece of paper, smooth the surface of the shaving cream in the tray. If needed, add a small amount of coloring to the shaving cream, then swirl. Repeat the marbling process with a second piece of paper. Let dry.

Cut a length of wire long enough to reach from your child's waist to a few inches above their head; set aside.

Use the Kite diagram to fold and cut the marbled papers. Secure the wire along the vertical fold of one paper with masking tape. Use double-sided tape to attach the second kite piece on top. Cut 6-inch lengths of ribbon and tie incrementally onto the wire. Secure with hot glue or double-sided tape.

To wear, twist the wire end around your child's belt; secure the top of the wire with a safety pin near the shoulder.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD UFO

PAGE 53

MATERIALS

- Inner tubes: two small (should fit snugly around child), one large
- Packing tape
- 54x100" Mylar tablecloth: silver
- Scissors
- Washi tape
- Neon dot stickers in a variety of sizes
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Remote control color puck lights
- Reflector tape
- Long-sleeve shirt or T-shirt
- Double-sided adhesive square

INSTRUCTIONS

Secure a large inflated tube between two small inflated tubes with packing tape.

Cut the tablecloth into 5-inch-wide strips. (Tip: Cut the strips through all the layers while the tablecloth is folded.) Wrap a strip around the inner tube structure, taping the strip to the inside of

the tubes and then onto the other end of the strip to keep from shifting. Continue wrapping strips around the tubes until covered, overlapping the pieces by at least ½ inch.

Decorate the wrapped structure with washi tape and dot stickers. Hot-glue puck lights along the edge. Adhere a strip of reflector tape between the lights.

If desired, adhere two strips of reflector tape to your child's shirt in an X. Use a double-sided adhesive square to attach a puck light in the center.

To wear the UFO, have your child step into the hole and pull up to waist level.

RADIANT RAINBOW

PAGE 54

MATERIALS

- Rainbow fringe curtain
- Printable Fringe Cuts and Fringe Placement diagrams (go to BHG.com/UpUpAndAwayCostumes)
- Large cutting mat
- Rotary cutter
- Black duct tape
- Denim jacket
- Fabric scissors
- Red ribbon, at least 1½" wide
- Plastic headband
- 10 to 15 yellow zip ties
- Gold rhinestones

INSTRUCTIONS

Lay the rainbow fringe curtain on a large cutting mat. Refer to the Fringe Cutting diagram to duct-tape and then cut the fringe with a rotary cutter into 3-inch sections. Remove one cut fringe piece at a time; fold the tape over itself to sandwich the fringe. Repeat this process for each fringe color.

Cut the collar and cuffs off a denim jacket. Following the Fringe Placement diagram, evenly place labels of each fringe color on the jacket from shoulder to waist. Hot-glue the duct tape edge of the purple fringe sections across the bottom of the denim jacket. Add a second row of purple halfway between the purple and blue labels. Cover the jacket opening edge by wrapping and gluing the strip to the inside of the jacket. Continue gluing the purple strips around the jacket. Repeat for each color, using the labels as a guide. Cut fringe sections to fit smaller areas, such as around the neck and shoulders. Repeat the labeling process to add fringe to each sleeve.

To finish the edges, hot-glue a piece of ribbon over the duct tape ends,

including across the shoulders, around the neckband, and around each sleeve edge.

For the headband, secure zip ties to the band so they extend upward. Slide the ties to space them evenly. Hot-glue a rhinestone to the end of each tie.

CHARMING CLOUD

PAGE 55

MATERIALS

- Polyester fiberfill
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- White flat-brimmed hat
- 1½"-wide elastic
- Scissors
- Safety pin
- 6"-wide tulle fabric on rolls: light blue

INSTRUCTIONS

Shape handfuls of polyester fiberfill into clumps, then hot-glue to the top of a flat-brimmed hat until completely covered. Measure your child's waist; cut elastic to fit. Safety pin the elastic ends together. Determine the desired length of the tutu. Double the length and add 2 inches to determine the cut length for the strips of tulle. Cut 40 to 50 strips of tulle to this length. Fold a strip of tulle in half and loop around the elastic band to create a slipknot. Continue adding tulle strips to the elastic band until the entire waistband is covered to desired fullness. Trim the bottom edges of the tutu, if needed. Shape handfuls of polyester fiberfill into clumps. Gather four to six tulle strips together; hot-glue a clump to the ends. Continue adding approximately every 4 inches around the tutu.



SILVER PLATE

THE WARES “While I wish I had all sterling silver, silver plate gives you the look for less,” says collector Emily Baker, who displays a mix of silver plate and tarnished pewter. When shopping, look on the back for a maker’s mark, then use that information to guide your online search to see if the price is fair. “Silver plate is very common. You will find it everywhere,” Emily says.

DISPLAY IDEAS “When it’s not polished, silver plate gives off a certain air,” Emily says. To create this vignette, she framed anatomy illustrations found at an estate sale. “I love how the tarnish matches the pencil sketches.”

COST The price depends on size and uniqueness. These pieces were thrifted for less than 15 dollars each.

USE A SILVER-PLATED VESSEL TO SHOW OFF FALL TEXTURES, SUCH AS THESE PATTERNED FEATHERS.





WICKED VINTAGE TREASURES

Collector Emily Baker's love for Halloween parades across her home.
Glean her wisdom for finding, buying, and displaying items of your own.

WRITER LACEY HOWARD PHOTOGRAPHER JAY WILDE STYLIST KRISTIN CLEVELAND



“I collect many things,” says Emily Baker. “But my passion for vintage Halloween started with a Gurley candle I found at an estate sale.” The Atlanta-area vintage-lover is known for unearthing treasures at all sorts of sales, which she shares on Instagram (@myweatheredhome). “I collect a variety of nonseasonal and seasonal vintage goods—from Valentine’s to Christmas,” she says. “But there’s something charming about Halloween. Maybe because they’re more scarce than other collectibles.”

Most spooky-season vintage pieces were made of paper or cardboard and often for children, meant to be played with and then thrown away. “It’s not like anyone was saving them to pass on to the next generation,” she says, “so when you find a piece, it’s so exciting.”

Their fragility and scarcity call for careful storage most of the year. “My items are wrapped with tissue paper or paper towels and placed in plastic totes in a dark, temperature- and humidity-controlled closet,” Emily says. When paper and plastic items are on display, she situates them away from direct sunlight to prevent fading.

For maximum impact, Emily groups similar treasures en masse. “I love the way my collections capture the spirit of Halloween past in a way that is mine. I am by no means a vintage Halloween expert—there are some out there—I just truly enjoy these charming pieces of nostalgic history and the thrill of the hunt.”

TERRA-COTTA PUMPKINS

THE WARES While these jacks are modern, they have the look of vintage. Scope out terra-cotta pumpkins, *below*, especially during fall months at garden centers, thrift stores, or online. “Choose faces that speak to you. I love unique shapes like the oblong ones,” Emily says. Pro tip: If yours is missing a hat, use a terra-cotta flowerpot and saucer.

DISPLAY IDEAS Typically, these perch on the porch with a candle inside. “This year, I brought them indoors for a surprise,” Emily says.

COST Find terra-cotta pumpkins online for about 30 dollars. If you’re lucky, you might score one at a thrift store for a few bucks.





IRONSTONE

THE WARES Ironstone pitchers, plates, and serving pieces, above, were created in the early 1800s as a pretty yet durable product for the common household. “Look for a maker’s mark back stamp to determine if the piece is a true antique,” Emily says. A real piece will be creamy white or have a bluish tint—never pure white. “And it’ll feel heavy,” she says. “Stains and crazing (fine cracks) are also great signs of aging.”

DISPLAY IDEAS Emily leaves this collection out year-round in her entry way. For Halloween, she pairs the pieces with ceramic pumpkins and ghosts.

COST If you’re lucky, you can find ironstone for a couple of dollars at yard sales or secondhand stores. Desirable pieces can cost several hundred dollars. “A cake plate just went for over 1,000 dollars!” Emily says. “But the average is about 40 dollars for a nice platter or pitcher.”

NOISEMAKERS

THE WARES Dating from the late 1800s to the 1950s, these noisy party favors, below, exist in many forms, including clappers, horns, tambourines, shakers, slide whistles, bells, rattles, ratchets, and clickers. They’re primarily made of paper, wood, and tin, but Emily is drawn in by the graphics. Find them on Etsy or eBay—she rarely sees them when hunting in person. Most of her treasures came from a collector who passed away.

DISPLAY IDEAS Bells, rattlers, and clappers don’t stand on their own. To show the graphics, rest them across the top of a jar or a vase.

COST You might find these for a dollar at estate sales, but they can be pricey online—30 to 40 dollars for a shaker, and sometimes even more for a horn.



GURLEY CANDLES

THE WARES Franklin Gurley's W&F Manufacturing Co. Inc. got its start in 1939, when it was commissioned by ExxonMobil's predecessor to recycle excess paraffin from its oil-refining process. By 1949, the holiday-theme candles were marked as Gurley Novelty Co. but were never meant to be burned.

DISPLAY IDEAS Emily mixes figures together or groups similar styles. Risers stagger the heights.

COST Candles range from 5 to 40 dollars, but some are more depending on size, condition, and scarcity. Just don't burn them! Even a blackened wick can devalue this collectible.



DIME-STORE CANDLES WERE SOLD INDIVIDUALLY AND AS SETS IN THE 1950S AND '60S. LOOK FOR A LABEL ON THE BOTTOM MARKED "GURLEY" OR "TAVERN."



CABBAGEWARE

THE WARES “Cabbageware is a crowd-pleaser,” Emily says. The Portuguese brand Bordallo Pinheiro started in 1884, but the handmade ceramics, *right*, are usually more available today. “I’ve collected my pieces over the last five years,” Emily says. “It’s sometimes hard to tell vintage from modern, but I don’t mind pieces with a chip or blemish.” If you find one that’s marked as a Holland mold or it has a person’s signature, it’s likely from the 1940s to 1980s.

DISPLAY IDEAS You don’t need a huge tablescape to bring charm. Emily sets a small pumpkin in a bowl to look like a pumpkin patch.

COST Yard sales and thrift stores sell single pieces or full place settings for rock-bottom prices—usually a few dollars.



“THESE WHIMSICAL PIECES EVOKE NOSTALGIA. EACH CRACK, TEAR, AND IMPERFECTION REVEALS A STORY FROM THE PAST IN THE MOST CHARMING WAY.”

—COLLECTOR EMILY BAKER



PIE BIRDS

THE WARES While pie vents first appeared in the 1800s to vent steam while baking pies, the bird shapes, *left*, landed in kitchens in the 1930s. The tool helps prevent filling from boiling over and crust from getting soggy. Many styles and colors exist, Emily says, “but I like black for fall because they remind me of crows.” Look for birds with different characteristics, such as deeper arches to the body, wear on the bottom, and color patterns.

DISPLAY IDEAS Emily likes to display a mix of old and new pie birds. “I sprinkle them in a cabinet so they look like a murder of crows,” she says.

COST Good reproductions are a couple of bucks, while old ones are generally 10 to 25 dollars or up to 100 dollars based on age and uniqueness.

PLASTIC TOYS

THE WARES Hard plastic candy containers, small trinkets, and pull toys, *right*, were produced in the 1950s. (Rosbro is the most common brand you'll find today.) Unlike other Halloween collectibles, these haven't been reproduced, so any you find are likely vintage—and very popular. “Get them when you can! I particularly love the ones with a hint of green,” Emily says.

DISPLAY IDEAS Emily groups her treasures in a cabinet with cubbies seemingly sized just for them, “but they would be fun as ornaments on a Halloween-theme mantel or tree,” she says.

COST “You can find one for 20 to 30 dollars,” Emily says, “but like all collectibles, rare ones go for more.”



BRASS OWLS

THE WARES Brass items have been functionally used for hundreds of years, but decorative candlesticks and figurines, *left*, are hot right now. To parse old from new, look at the wear, weight, and tarnish. “It’s a great sign when it has a little green velvet pad on the bottom. New brass items don’t have that feature,” Emily says. Brass pieces of all shapes are easy to find, so keep your eyes peeled as you shop.

DISPLAY IDEAS “I have brass figurines in my home throughout the year, adding a piece here and there for patina,” Emily says. “But I love owls for Halloween. Put one in a nest under a cloche or use a couple as bookends.”

COST The owls in Emily’s collection cost anywhere from 2 to 30 dollars.



BLOW MOLDS

THE WARES Named after their manufacturing process, these hollow plastic figures can date to the 1940s. Many stores now sell reproductions, so look on the bottom to determine age. Anything with “Made in China” is newer; a barcode sticker means it’s from 1974 or later. (Items more than 30 years old are considered vintage.)

Other telltale signs of age: sun bleaching, cracks, scratches, and an old-style electrical plug.

DISPLAY IDEAS “They’re meant for outside, but the sun can fade them,” Emily warns. “Set them inside by a fireplace or on a shelf.”

COST “Depending on rarity, age, and intricacy, they can go for several hundred,” she says. Look for simple blow molds like trick-or-treat pails at yard sales for a dollar.

LOOK INSIDE! YOU MIGHT
FIND LEFTOVER ROCKS OR
SAND IN THE FIGURES,
WHICH WERE USED TO
PREVENT THEM FROM
BLOWING AWAY.



FORTUNE-TOLD TREATS

Gaze deep into these crystal balls to learn the secrets of delightfully creepy cupcakes and cocktails.

WRITER ELLEN BOEKE PHOTOGRAPHER KELSEY HANSEN
FOOD STYLIST ANNIE PROBST PROP STYLIST ADDELYN EVANS
PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNTER



WITHIN REACH

This entirely edible scene will grab everyone's attention. We'll show you a simple trick to make grubby sugar cookie fingers look like they're emerging from a crumbled brownie and matcha-dusted earth.

THE EYES HAVE IT

Whip up these treats quick as a wink. Look online or in well-stocked stores for gummy eyeballs. Seedless raspberry jam is warmed to give these all-seeing peepers a bloodshot look.



RECIPES BEGIN
ON PAGE 74.



GOING BUGGY

You'll never look at dates the same way after transforming them into these sweet and squishy roaches. Black frosting legs let them crawl across cupcakes of any size.

**DONUT COME
ANY CLOSER**

For a monstrosously easy embellishment, dip plain cake donuts in tinted store-bought frosting (warm it up for a thin glaze-like consistency), then add candy eyes and sprinkles.



NIGHT CRAWLERS EMERGE

Chocolate cupcakes that seem to wiggle and squirm are not for the squeamish. Toss black licorice laces with edible rose-color luster dust for a realistic earthworm look. If you prefer other flavors of licorice, you'll get a different but equally creepy effect.



POISON PUMPKINS

Who is the fairest cupcake of them all? This little pumpkin one, of course. Pipe orange-tinted frosting in vertical stripes on the tops of cupcakes. Tip them on their sides and add cinnamon stick stems and fresh sage leaves to complete the look.



THESE POTENT
POTIONS ARE JUST
THE THING TO
CONJURE MYSTIC
VISIONS.

MAGIC MATCHA
BOBA LATTE

CRANBERRY ZOMBIE
MOCKTAIL

POISON APPLE
SOUR

DARING DRAUGHTS

Ghouls and goblins are sure to delight in these colorful cocktails and mocktails. The drinks resemble swirling elixirs thanks to boba pearls, sorbet, or bright mixers. Whip up the simple recipes for an upcoming Halloween celebration.

DRAGON FRUIT
PUNCH

RECIPES

THE EYES HAVE IT CUPCAKES



WITHIN REACH CUPCAKES

- 1 15.25-oz. box devil's food or chocolate cake mix or 24 purchased chocolate cupcakes
- Nonstick cooking spray
- Purchased or homemade sugar cookie dough
- Sliced almonds
- Unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 16-oz. can chocolate frosting
- 2 cups coarsely crumbled unfrosted brownies
- Matcha (green tea powder)

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make cupcakes. Let cool.

2. For cookie fingers: Shape a large piece of heavy foil into a 2-inch-thick log the length of a large baking sheet. Coat foil log with cooking spray. On a lightly floured surface, roll sugar cookie dough to ¼ inch thick. Cut dough into 5×1-inch strips. Add an almond slice to one end of each strip, rounding the end to look like a fingernail. (You'll need 120 dough strips and almond slices for five fingers on each cupcake.) Drape strips over prepared foil log. Bake according to cookie dough directions until golden brown. Immediately brush cookies with cocoa powder. Cool completely on pan.

3. Frost cupcakes with chocolate frosting. Top with crumbled brownies and sprinkle lightly with matcha. Stick ends of cookie fingers into cupcakes to resemble a hand. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**

- 1 15.25-oz. box devil's food or chocolate cake mix or 24 purchased chocolate cupcakes
- 1 16-oz. can white frosting
- ½ cup seedless raspberry jam or strawberry jam
- 24 gummy candy eyeballs

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make cupcakes. Let cool.

2. Transfer frosting to a piping bag fitted with a large round tip (or place in a resealable plastic bag; snip ½ inch off one corner). Pipe frosting in circles on cupcakes.

3. Warm jam in a small saucepan or in a glass measuring cup in the microwave. Whisk until smooth and runny. Using a small spoon, drizzle jam over cupcakes to make red lines. Add a gummy eyeball to each cupcake. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**



TIP

START WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF LUSTER DUST FOR COATING THE LICORICE LACES. IT'S EASY TO ADD MORE AS NEEDED.



NIGHT CRAWLERS EMERGE CUPCAKES

- 1 15.25-oz. box devil's food or chocolate cake mix or 24 purchased chocolate cupcakes
- Black licorice laces, cut to desired lengths
- Rose-color luster dust
- 1 16-oz. can chocolate frosting
- 1 to 2 cups crushed chocolate sandwich cookies with white filling

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make cupcakes. Let cool.

2. Place desired amount of licorice laces in a resealable plastic bag. Add desired amount of luster dust. Seal bag and shake to coat.

3. Spread frosting on cupcakes. Sprinkle with crushed cookies. Add coated licorice to cupcakes, tucking some ends into the frosting and letting some drape over the tops and sides. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**

GOING BUGGY CUPCAKES

- 1 15.25-oz. box yellow cake mix or 24 purchased yellow cupcakes
- 24 Medjool dates
- 1 16-oz. can cream cheese frosting
- 1 to 2 cups crushed shortbread cookies
- 1 tube black writing icing or gel

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make full-size or mini cupcakes. Let cool.

2. For bugs: Cut lengthwise wedges out of dates and remove pits. Cut a piece off each wedge to make bug heads.

3. Spread frosting on cupcakes. Sprinkle with crushed cookies. Add dates, cut sides up. Add pieces for heads, cut sides down. Using black writing icing, add legs and antennae to bugs. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**

DONUT COME ANY CLOSER CUPCAKES

- 1 15.25-oz. box yellow cake mix or 24 purchased yellow cupcakes
- 1 to 2 16-oz. cans white frosting
- Purple and green gel food coloring
- 24 unfrosted regular and/or mini cake donuts
- Candy eyes, candy corn, and multicolor sprinkles

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make cupcakes. Let cool.

2. Divide frosting in half and place in two small saucepans. Tint one purple and one green using gel food coloring. Warm frostings over low heat until runny. Dip the tops of half of the donuts in the purple frosting and half in the green frosting. Place on trays lined with parchment.

3. Decorate dipped donuts as you like with candy eyes, candy corn, and sprinkles. Let stand until set. Let any remaining frosting in pans cool.

4. Use remaining frosting (or tint additional frosting, if needed) to frost cupcakes and attach donuts to tops. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**



POISON PUMPKIN CUPCAKES

- 1 15.25-oz. box yellow cake mix or 24 purchased yellow cupcakes
- 1 16-oz. can white frosting
- Orange gel food coloring
- 24 cinnamon stick pieces
- 24 fresh sage leaves

1. Prepare cake mix (if using) according to package directions to make cupcakes. Let cool.

2. Tint frosting using orange gel food coloring. Transfer frosting to a piping bag fitted with a leaf tip. Pipe frosting in lines on the cupcakes, curving with the contours. At one end of the lines, add cinnamon sticks and sage leaves to cupcakes. Serve cupcakes tilted on their sides to resemble pumpkins. **Makes 24 cupcakes.**

TIP

TO PREVENT THE PUMPKIN CUPCAKES FROM ROLLING ON THEIR SIDES, ADD A DAB OF FROSTING TO THE BOTTOM EDGE BEFORE PLACING THEM ON A SERVING PLATE.



MAGIC MATCHA BOBA LATTE

HANDS ON 10 minutes
TOTAL TIME 20 minutes

- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup cold water
- 1 tsp. butterfly pea flower powder*
- 4 tsp. matcha (green tea powder)
- 1 cup plus 1 Tbsp. hot water (167°F)
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- ½ to ¾ cup cooked brown sugar boba pearls**
- 2½ to 3 cups crushed ice
- Lemon wedges (optional)

1. In a small saucepan whisk together sugar, cold water, and butterfly pea flower. Cook and stir over medium until sugar is dissolved, 1 minute. Remove from heat. Cover and let steep 10 minutes. Pour mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a 1-cup glass measuring cup; let cool.
2. In a 2-cup glass measuring cup whisk together matcha tea and 1 Tbsp. of the hot water until smooth, 30 seconds. Add remaining 1 cup hot water, whisking constantly until completely combined.
3. In another 2-cup glass measuring cup or pitcher, stir together milk and vanilla.
4. For each drink: Pour 2 Tbsp. of the butterfly pea flower syrup into a 10- to 12-oz. tall glass; top with crushed ice (about three-quarters full). Slowly pour ½ cup of the milk mixture over the back of a spoon into glass. (This helps keep the layers separated in the glass.) Add 2 to 3 Tbsp. of the boba pearls to each glass. Slowly pour ¼ cup of the matcha tea over the back of a spoon over milk layer. If you like, garnish with lemon wedge. **Makes 4 servings.**

***TIP** Butterfly pea flowers are dehydrated to make a vibrant blue powder used as a natural dye in cooking and baking. Look for it online.

****TIP** Boba pearls (aka pearled tapioca) are available uncooked and precooked. Look for them in the tea or beverage aisle of Asian markets and large grocery stores.

RECIPES

DRAGON FRUIT PUNCH

START TO FINISH 10 minutes

- 1 12-oz. pkg. frozen dragon fruit, such as Pitaya brand, thawed
- Mango sorbet
- Chilled lemon-lime soda or Prosecco

1. Place dragon fruit in a blender; cover and blend until smooth. For each drink: Spoon 3 to 4 Tbsp. dragon fruit puree into bottom of an 8- to 10-oz. glass. Top with small scoops of mango sorbet. Slowly pour soda or Prosecco into glass until full. **Makes 4 to 6 servings.**



CRANBERRY ZOMBIE MOCKTAIL

HANDS ON 15 minutes
TOTAL TIME 40 minutes

- 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 to 4 cups ice cubes
- 2 cups unsweetened orange juice
- 2 cups unsweetened pineapple juice
- ½ cup fresh lime juice (from 4 limes)

TIP

THE CRANBERRY SYRUP MAY SEEM THIN, BUT IT WILL THICKEN AS IT CHILLS. IF YOU LIKE, SIMMER THE STRAINED SYRUP UNTIL IT'S THICKER.

1. In a small saucepan stir together cranberries, water, and sugar. Cook over medium until cranberries soften, stirring often and adjusting heat to maintain a simmer, 6 minutes. Pour mixture through a fine-mesh sieve, pressing with the back of a spoon. Discard solids. Let cool 5 minutes; cover and chill syrup at least 15 minutes.
2. Working in batches if necessary, in a blender combine 2 cups ice, the orange juice, pineapple juice, and lime juice. Cover and blend until smooth, adding ice as needed to achieve desired consistency.
3. Drizzle cranberry syrup around inner edges of tall glasses so it drips down. Pour juice slush into glasses. **Makes 8 servings.**

CRANBERRY ZOMBIE COCKTAIL Add 2 oz. (¼ cup) white rum to each serving with juice slush in Step 3.



POISON APPLE SOUR

START TO FINISH 10 minutes

- 1 oz. (2 Tbsp.) vodka
- 1 oz. (2 Tbsp.) sour apple schnapps,
such as DeKuyper Pucker brand
- Ice cubes
- 1½ oz. (3 Tbsp.) hard apple cider, chilled
- 1 tsp. grenadine
- Gummy candy eyeball or apple slice
(optional)

1. In a mixing glass or cocktail shaker combine vodka and sour apple schnapps. Fill glass with ice. Stir (or cover and shake) until chilled, 1 minute. Strain into a coupe glass. Top with hard apple cider.

2. Insert a bar spoon into glass. Slowly cascade grenadine down the spoon allowing it to settle at bottom of glass. (Or slowly pour grenadine down the inside side of the glass.) If you like, garnish with gummy eyeball or apple slice.

Makes 1 serving.

BE OUR GUEST

The front porch on Renee Lockington's home, *this photo*, reveals this year's Halloween party theme: The Black Hat Inn. Her parties and decor are a family affair; her parents built the sign and luggage rack, while the pumpkins on the windowsill represent her four children.

SPELLBINDING SWEETS

Decorated cookies, *opposite*, are contributed each year by Renee's sister, Monica Cowell. (Find her on Instagram @sharpspartysugarcookies.) Renee dreams up the theme, and Monica comes up with the cookie designs. This Halloween, the motifs include cauldrons, tarot cards, moths, a book of spells, and witch hats.



all witches & warlocks

WELCOME



On a hilltop in New Jersey, a farmhouse built in 1767 leans into its witchy persona with spellbinding decor that's nothing short of magical.

WRITER SARAH EGGE PHOTOGRAPHER ADAM ALBRIGHT



THE ROOM

NUMBERS ON THE MAIL

CUBBIES RELATE TO

RENEE'S CHILDREN'S AND
THEIR COUSINS' BIRTHDAYS.

CUP HOOKS HOLD

ANTIQUE-STYLE KEYS.

STEP ON INN

Renee immediately pictured the front hall space as the reception area. Her son, Christopher, made the check-in sign in his graphic design class, while her daughters added old-fashioned labels and stickers to wrapped packages. Renee's sister contributed a vintage-inspired telephone, and everyone in the family signed a guest book using spooky addresses.

W

hen you live in a historic home, it seems only right to lean into Halloween. The Lockington family owns Sharps Farmhouse, a storied homestead that predates the Revolutionary War, in Hamilton Township, New Jersey. “This house sits back a little and up on a hill, so it seems to lend itself to Halloween,” says Renee, who shares their home on TikTok (@from.the.farmhouse). “I get to use my imagination and create a little world up here.”

Every year, Renee conjures a theme for their home, which leads into a much-anticipated party on Halloween night that she and her husband, Brian, have hosted since they got married. This year, The Black Hat Inn, a hotel run by witches, came to life. The family welcomes guests in the front hall with old-fashioned room keys and brown paper-wrapped airmail packages. If you’re ailing, an apothecary in the dining room will cure—or spook—you. Every nook and cranny from the porch to the bedrooms is flourished with details that underscore the theme.

Renee decorates with wicker-wrapped bottles, vintage books, and pewter candlesticks year-round, but her shelves and walls take on a new look during Halloween with black candles and anatomy posters. “I use a lot of the same items, but I try to use them in a different way,” she says. Her children—Christopher, 15; Victoria, 13; Elizabeth, 11; and Catherine, 9—help place items and offer ideas for new vignettes. “Our kids really get into the decorating,” Renee says.

As a child, Renee learned to love the holiday from her parents, who went all out to celebrate. Renee’s mom even made costumes for her Cabbage Patch dolls. Now, Renee carries the celebration forward for her kids, while her parents live nearby and help decorate. On the night of the big party, dozens of friends, family members, and neighbors gather throughout the house and spill onto the porch. “We trick-or-treat, then come back to the house to play games and eat pizza. It takes over the whole property,” Renee says. “At Halloween, this neighborhood feels so nostalgic, and the house has such a magical feel to it.”



COZY NOOK

Two stuffed black owls nestle into a corner of the living room, *top*, which is dressed in seasonal branches trimmed from the front tree. “Little things like the black candles add just enough spooky touches,” Renee says.

PARTY READY

The Lockington family, *above*—Renee, Brian, and kids Christopher, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Victoria—gathers on their porch in front of a hutch stocked with seasonal treats and decor, including a Ouija board that Renee has had since she was a teenager.



CRAFTY CURE-ALLS

“We want to immerse ourselves in Halloween,” Renee says. She starts decorating at the end of September, removing dishes from these shelves, *left*, to swap in items to create a witch apothecary. “I have a lot of lab ware, and a friend gifted me his collection. Every time we empty a cute jar, I save it,” she says. Labels and recipe cards printed from Etsy are stained with tea to give the bottles a vintage look.

BLACK BEAUTY

When she first spied the gothic lines of this secretary, *below*, at a thrift store, “I immediately thought I could use it at Halloween,” Renee says. While the lower drawers offer year-round storage for linens, the upper shelves display secondhand books with black spines—some even with an eerie title—and tea-stained anatomy images with burned edges.



“
THE ANTICIPATION,
THE BUILDUP TO THE DAY,
THE PLANNING OF COSTUMES
AND TREATS. IT HAPPENS ONLY
ONCE A YEAR, SO HALLOWEEN
NIGHT FEELS SO MAGICAL.
”

—HOMEOWNER RENEE LOCKINGTON

CAST A SPELL

A gray-and-purple plaid tablecloth provides a moody backdrop for black candles and a raven-topped cake that sits on a stand Renee found at a flea market 20 years ago. "I use it all year long, but it looks particularly good at Halloween," she says. Guests are beckoned to the table by skeleton place cards Christopher made. Each setting is marked by skeleton plates, black napkins, and red silk roses bound by skeleton napkin rings.



To see the
**Lockingtons'
Witchy Party**
check out this
new title on
magazines.com

PUMPKIN PATCH

A pumpkin-shape beverage dispenser on the kitchen island holds apple cider for guests. Lately, Renee likes collecting pewter items, such as goblets and glass mugs, from thrift and antiques stores to use during the party. The Colonial-era metalwares suit the age of her house and look especially festive. She also hunts for black or orange pottery dinnerware. “I use it only once a year, and that makes it special,” she says.





HALLOWED FEAST

Renee transforms everyday decor, like the black-and-white tablecloth and wood cake stand, into seasonal looks by adding orange details and plenty of themed accessories, *above left*. The wire cake stand cloche covers dessert from a local bakery. Cups that look like little cauldrons were a gift from her mom.

WELL-PLATED SPREAD

When Renee found these plates years ago, *above*, she had to have them. “The silhouettes remind me of my kids,” she says. Paper crackers from HomeGoods embellish the settings.

SCARY GOOD SERVICE

A buffet is set for adult guests with “vampire” wine from a local shop, *left*. Renee stocks treats, including her sister’s homemade bright red candied apples, throughout the house for friends to help themselves. A portrait Renee found on Etsy overlooks a pewter vase filled with branches from their yard.





WITCH'S BREW

Renee's mother sews and collects witch costumes for her granddaughters; they wear them for a group photo in a spooky or historic setting each fall. A past dress is displayed in Victoria's room, *above left*, which she helped decorate in the inn theme with painted cardboard suitcases and black cats.



PINK RIBBONS TIED
INTO BOWS AND PINNED TO
THE BRIM OF THE WITCH
HATS COORDINATE WITH
THE ROOM'S COLOR SCHEME.

GROWN-UP FUN

Renee chose a skeleton theme for Christopher's room, *opposite bottom*. "He's a teenager now, and this isn't cutesy," she says. She used to cut paper bats by hand but now buys packs of them online for an easy alternative. Renee's great-grandmother's black steamer trunk stands in as an aptly hued nightstand.

HATS OFF

Catherine and Elizabeth's room, *above*, is located at the front of the house. "At night looking in, you can see the hats floating," says Renee, who hung them with clear monofilament. She bought an inexpensive dollhouse off Facebook Marketplace and spray-painted it black as a spooky swap for the one they usually play with.



beetle
juice



KNOCK KNOCK. WHO'S THERE?

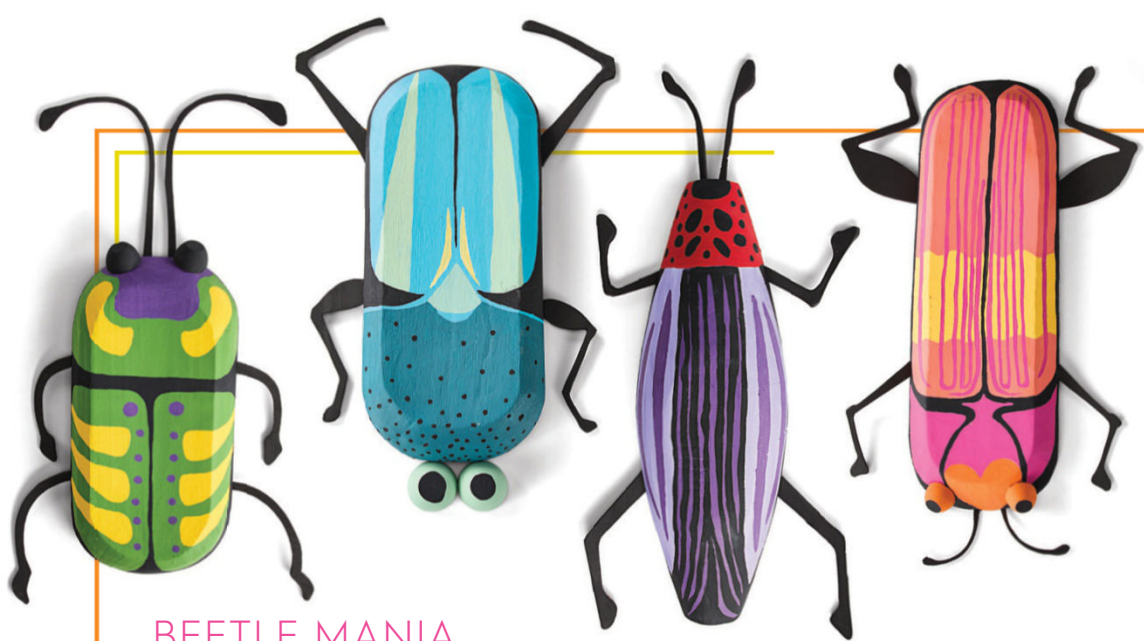
Bugs, jack-o'-lanterns, owls,
and flies—that's who! Welcome
trick-or-treaters with a spooktacular
front door display made from easy-to-find
or repurposed craft items.

WRITER NICOLE SHAPIRO
PHOTOGRAPHER CARSON DOWNING
PRODUCER JENI WRIGHT

BEETLE MANIA

You won't mind a front porch overrun with these colorful critters. To create them, paint oblong wooden bowls to look like bugs (search online for images of real insect designs), then glue on legs and antennae cut from black foam sheets. Hang each creature using picture wire or a 3M adhesive mounting hook. (Find full instructions on page 90.)





BEETLE MANIA

MATERIALS

- Oblong wood bowls (we found ours at thrift and crafts stores)
- Primer
- Paintbrushes
- Pencil
- Paint
- Varnish (optional)
- Small wood bowls (optional)
- E6000 glue
- Crafts sticks
- Printable Legs and Antenna patterns (go to BHG.com/HalloweenDoors)
- Thick black foam sheets
- Scissors
- 3M adhesive strips
- Small eye screws (optional)
- Picture-hanging wire (optional)
- 3M adhesive mounting hook (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

For each bug, place a wood bowl face down on your work surface and coat the bottom with primer. Once dry, use a pencil to draw a bug design on the primer, then paint the design. (We searched online for beetle patterns.) When dry, apply a coat of varnish, if desired.

For bulging bug eyes, prime, paint, and varnish (if desired) small wood bowls. Once dry, glue onto the bug body. If the eyes don't sit flat on the body, use crafts sticks to create an extended flat surface to glue onto, *below*.

Print the Legs and Antenna patterns, enlarging as needed. Trace onto thick black foam sheets; cut out. Glue to the edge of the bowl.

Hang each bug using 3M adhesive strips mounted along the bowl edge. Or, secure small screw eyes in the back of the bug and attach a wire across the back to hang on a hook.



MATERIALS

- 3 hollow faux pumpkins: small, medium, large
- Handsaw
- Printable Pumpkin Face patterns (go to BHG.com/HalloweenDoors)
- Pencil
- Crafts knife
- 1-2 foam-core boards (we used yellow)
- Caulk gun
- Foam glue (we used Loctite PL300 Foamboard Adhesive)
- 3M adhesive mounting hook

INSTRUCTIONS

Use a handsaw to cut each pumpkin in half vertically. (Set aside one set of the halves to share with a friend or to use for another project.) Print the Pumpkin Face patterns, enlarging as needed. Trace one face on each half pumpkin. Cut out the faces using a crafts knife. Cut a hole in the bottom of the medium and small pumpkins so a stem will fit inside.

Place the foam-core board on your work surface and arrange the pumpkins on the board from largest to smallest, nestling stems inside so they sit snugly against each other. (You may need to use two foam-core boards to cover the backs of the pumpkins.) Trace the pumpkin stack onto the board, then remove the pumpkins and cut along the outline with a crafts knife. Use a caulk gun to apply foam glue to the cut edge of the pumpkins and press in place on the board. Let dry.

Cut a small hole near the top of the board for a hook. Hang the pumpkin tower from a 3M adhesive hook on your door.

GOURD-EOUS TRIO

This stack of grinning pumpkins greets guests, *this photo*, and can even act as a candy dispenser on the big night, *opposite, top right*. Cut artificial pumpkins in half, then carve out faces and glue onto foam-core board for a pumpkin tower you can use every year. Place LED puck lights inside each one for that classic jack-o'-lantern glow.

SHARE THIS PROJECT

WITH A FRIEND!

SPLIT THE PUMPKINS—

AND THE COST.





HAUNTED FOREST

This towering timber, *opposite*, casts an impressive optical illusion (don't worry—your front door will still open!). It comes together with just cardboard, brown packing paper, wire, and hot glue. Attach the cardboard-backed trunk and branches directly to your house with 3M adhesive strips, or partially suspend the branches from the ceiling using fishing line for a three-dimensional look. We perched a flock of owls and clumps of moss, *right*, on the branches for extra eeriness.

MATERIALS

- Large sheets of cardboard
- Pencil
- Utility knife
- Butcher paper or brown paper bags
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- 3M adhesive strips
- 14-gauge wire
- Clear fishing line
- Small screw eyes
- Faux moss
- Faux owls or crows

INSTRUCTIONS

Mark the size of your front door on cardboard (tape cardboard pieces together, if needed) and draw a tree outline on the cardboard. Use a utility knife to cut out the tree shape.

Tear and crumple lengths of paper, then stretch them out and hot-glue onto the cardboard tree shape. Nestle the paper pieces into and around one another to look like bark, filling in any empty spaces. Attach tree shape to your door with 3M adhesive strips.

To add branches that extend beyond your door, sketch branch outlines onto cardboard pieces and cut out. The base of the branches should match the width of the branches on the main tree. For lifelike fullness, have two or three smaller branches coming off of each larger branch.

For flat branches attached to your house exterior, glue crumpled strips of paper onto cardboard, just as you did for the main tree. Use 3M adhesive strips to attach the branches to your house exterior.

For three-dimensional branches that hang from the ceiling, *above, far right*, glue crumpled paper to both the front and back of each cardboard branch. Wrap wire around each branch to help secure the paper and strengthen the branch, *right*. Use adhesive strips to attach the base of each branch to the door trim so it lines up with a branch on



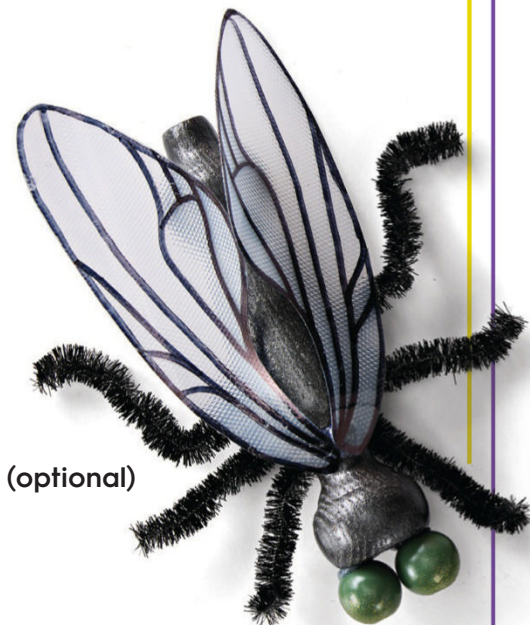
ATTACH SEPARATE
BRANCHES ON THE DOOR
AND FRAME SO THAT
YOUR DOOR CAN STILL
OPEN AND CLOSE.

the main tree. Then, use clear fishing line and screw eyes mounted in the ceiling to support the other end of each branch.

Glue on faux moss and attach faux owls or crows to the tree stump and branches.

FLY INVASION

Buzzz! A swarm of giant flies isn't intimidated by this supersize swatter, *opposite*. Items found at a home improvement store come together to form the insects, while a cooling rack, duct tape, and twisted wire transform into the swatter. Hang your freakish flies from the ceiling with fishing line, *right*, and attach some to the wall for a full horde effect.



MATERIALS

- 7-inch wood table legs
- Wood beads
- Spray paint: black, green, green glitter (optional)
- Drill and drill bits
- Black pipe cleaners
- Wire snips
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Printable Wings pattern (go to BHG.com/HalloweenDoors)
- Plastic translucent nonstick shelf liner (we used Con-Tact Surface FX Clear Diamond Non-Adhesive Shelf Liner)
- Black permanent marker
- Scissors
- 3M adhesive strips or hook-and-loop strips
- Small screw eyes
- Clear fishing line
- 14-gauge wire
- Black duct tape
- Cookie cooling rack
- 3M adhesive mounting hook

INSTRUCTIONS

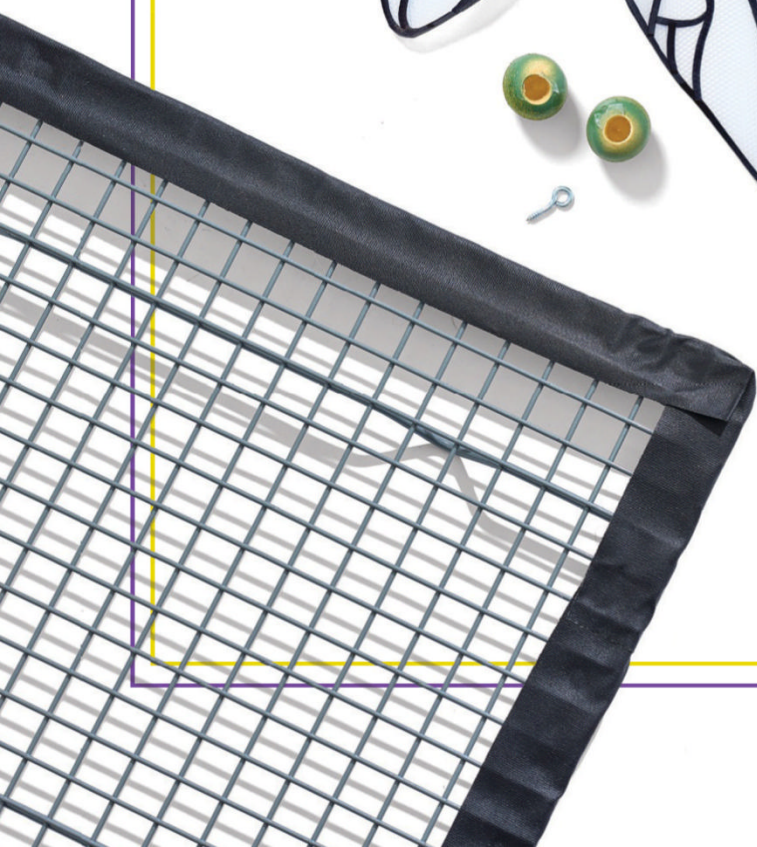
Flies: In a well-ventilated area, spray-paint table legs black for the fly bodies and the wood beads green for the eyes. If desired and once dry, spray a layer of green glitter paint on the eyes. Let dry.

Drill three small holes on each side of the fly bodies to fit the pipe cleaner legs. Cut the pipe cleaners into pieces for legs: four short legs and two long legs. Add a dot of hot glue to the tip of each pipe cleaner piece and insert into a leg hole. Let dry, then bend the pipe cleaners into leg shapes. Hot-glue the eyes in place.

Print the Wings pattern, enlarging as needed. Lay a section of clear shelf liner over the pattern. (Tape both the pattern and liner down so they don't shift while you're working). Use a marker to trace the wings and wing details onto the liner. Cut out the wings, then hot-glue them to the fly body. (Attach the wings in various ways: spread apart for a mid-flight fly or closer together for a fly at rest.)

Use 3M adhesive strips or hook-and-loop strips to attach the flies to your door and exterior; attach small screw eyes to the tops of some flies and hang from the ceiling with clear fishing line.

Fly Swatter: Cut about a 6-foot length of wire. Bend the wire in half, leaving a curve for the handle, then begin twisting the wire about 6 inches from the bend. Continue twisting, stopping about 5 inches from the ends. Bend the ends at about a 90-degree angle. Use duct tape to attach the wire ends to the bottom of a cooling rack. Cover the perimeter of the rack with duct tape, folding it over the edges. Use a 3M adhesive mounting hook to hang the fly swatter on your door.





PLACE A FEW
FLIES BELLY-UP ON YOUR
PORCH FOR A
GROSS GRAVEYARD.

FINAL FRIGHT

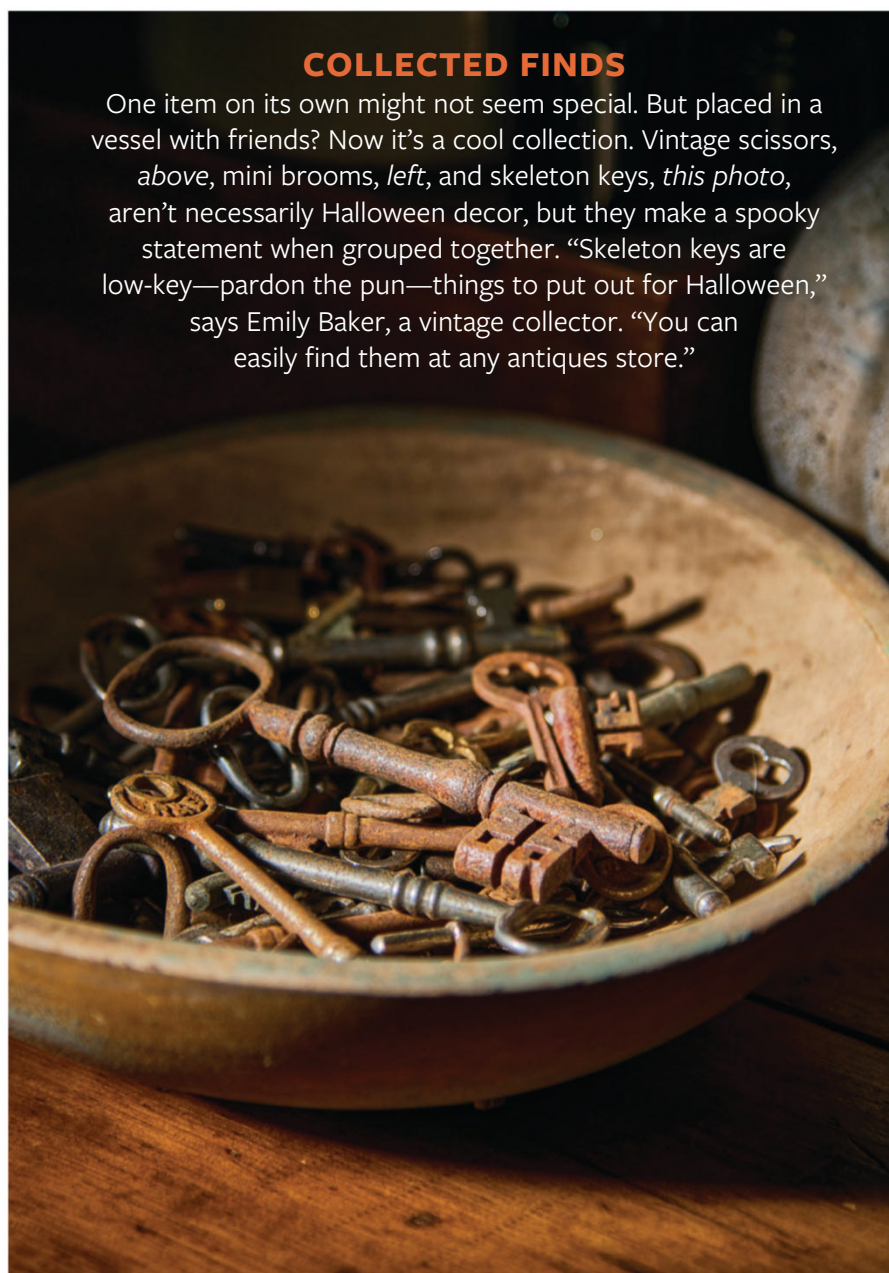
“BE PATIENT.
GO OFTEN.
KEEP HUNTING.
THE ITEMS ARE
OUT THERE—YOU
JUST HAVE TO BE
PERSISTENT.”

—COLLECTOR EMILY BAKER



COLLECTED FINDS

One item on its own might not seem special. But placed in a vessel with friends? Now it's a cool collection. Vintage scissors, above, mini brooms, left, and skeleton keys, this photo, aren't necessarily Halloween decor, but they make a spooky statement when grouped together. "Skeleton keys are low-key—pardon the pun—things to put out for Halloween," says Emily Baker, a vintage collector. "You can easily find them at any antiques store."





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